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John Fenwick
OF
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE,
Attorney at Law.

BORN AT HEXHAM 14 APRIL 1787.
MARRIED AT ALNWICK 9 JUNE 1814.

Pur. Gough Add's Durham

4°. 22.

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LOCAL COLLECTIONS;

OR

RECORDS OF REMARKABLE EVENTS,

CONNECTED WITH THE

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD,

1854.

☞ ONLY SIXTY COPIES PRINTED.—TO BE CONTINUED ANNUALLY.

GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE:
PRINTED AT THE OBSERVER STEAM-PRESS, 14, HIGH-STREET, BY WILLIAM L. DOUGLAS.
1854.

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HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS,

1854.

THE GATESHEAD TOWN-COUNCIL.

MAYOR.	COUNCILLORS.	
†Haggie, David	†Allhusen, Chris.	†Hewitt, James
ALDERMEN.	†Brinton, George	†Hodgson, R. W.
†Cummins, T.	†Cook, William	Hunter, George
Hawks, George	Crawshay, E.	†Hymers, J. A.
Lister, John	Douglas, William	†Ionn, F. P.
Pearson, C. J.	Garbutt, C.	†Patterson, G.
†Robson, Joseph	†Gray, Alex. Geo.	Skelton, John
†Smith, James	Haggie, Peter	†Vickers, John
		†Wilson, James

☞ Those marked (†) were present.

TOWNHALL, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11.—An adjourned quarterly meeting was held to-day, and was protracted from 2 o'clock until nearly 7. We can give but an outline of the proceedings.

After some rate appeals had been disposed of, the MAYOR, to fulfil a pressing engagement elsewhere, quitted his seat, and Mr. Ald. SMITH was appointed to preside in his room.

The Watch Committee made a report, mostly routine. It referred, however, to the extraordinary conduct of three peccant policemen, one of whom had been dismissed. A watch rate, of the same amount as before, was ordered to be laid.

Communications from Wakefield and Portsmouth were read on the subject of the parliamentary report recommending a consolidation of the borough and county police; and a petition to parliament against the recommendation, moved by Mr. ALLHUSEN, seconded by Mr. Ald. CUMMINS and Mr. HYMERS, and supported by Mr. HODGSON and others, was adopted.

The Baths and Washhouses Committee reported that, good bricks of the kind named in the specifications being unobtainable, the contractor, Mr. Alexander, had offered, for £40 extra, to make the front of stone, and his offer had been accepted.

Mr. COOK and Mr. GRAY considered the proceeding very irregular, being unsanctioned by the Council.

Mr. ALLHUSEN moved that it be now confirmed by the adoption of the report.

Seconded by Mr. HYMERS, who said the Committee (comprising Aldermen Lister and Pearson) were astonished that the contractor proposed to substitute stone at so moderate an addition to the cost.

Mr. HODGSON supported the motion. He thought the Committee had shown good sense and good taste.

Mr. HALL (Town Surveyor), being called upon, said he could not sanction such bricks as were obtainable; and the contractor having made a tempting offer, it was accepted by the Committee.

Mr. GRAY said, Mr. Alexander had contracted to build the front with the bricks specified, and should have been held to his engagement.

Mr. COOK referred to a newspaper-paragraph on the subject, which spoke of the alteration as calculated to vitiate the whole contract. The contractor, as Mr. Gray observed, should have been compelled to fulfil his bargain, even though he had to go to Jericho for bricks. (Laughter.) £40 might be viewed as a trifling sum; but it was not so, when they were obliged, as during the present sitting, to excuse the payment of rates on the score of poverty. The smaller ratepayers could not afford the slightest increase of their burdens.

Mr. HODGSON inquired of the Town Clerk if the contract were vitiated, as had been suggested?

The TOWN CLERK: Not at all.

Mr. HODGSON thought the Committee had made a capital bargain, in getting a stone front instead of a brick one at so small an advance.

Mr. ALLHUSEN concurred. The Committee had taken upon themselves the responsibility of the alteration with the best intentions, and deserved the thanks and support of the Council.

Mr. GRAY said, he had no desire to cast reflections on the Committee. They had acted for the best, but the proceeding was unconstitutional. Committees should keep within their powers. The fact, he believed, was, that an opportunity offered itself of making the building ornamental, and the temptation was not resisted. £40 was a small sum. It must be borne in mind, however, that the prospect was before them of a considerable increase of their local burdens. It was generally believed that extensive powers would be given to the General Board of Health (so we understood Mr. Gray to say) to enforce sanitary improvements upon the towns in the North, and Gateshead in particular, which could not be effected but at great cost.

The motion was put and carried, Mr. Cook holding up his hand in the negative.

The Parliamentary, Railway, and Byelaw Committee submitted a draft of byelaws for the regulation of hackney-carriages in Gateshead; which draft, after considerable discussion, was ordered to lie upon the table for inspection by the burgesses, and to be taken into consideration at the quarterly meeting in February.

Mr. Ald. ROBSON presented a report from the Public

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Health Committee, comprising a report from the Town Surveyor. We give a digest.

1. The Committee referred to the visit of the Cholera Commissioners, (the particulars of which have already been brought under the notice of our readers). The Committee, as desired by the Commissioners, had prepared a list of witnesses (given in the report); and whosoever pleased might also offer himself for examination.

2. The Committee had instructed Mr. Hall to call upon Mr. Green, architect, who was said to have a plan of Gateshead in his possession, prepared for some railway project, and ascertain how far a copy of it would be of service towards a regular survey of the town.

3. Mr. Rochester, of Whalton, had consented to accept 4½ per cent. (in lieu of 5) as interest on his loan of £2,000. (The agreement of May 3, 1849, showed that the loan "might be repaid by instalments of £500 each, on six months' notice," but "without prejudice" to Mr. Rochester's "right to require payment of the whole sum due, at any time, on his giving six months' notice.")

4. The Surveyor recommended that, the ordinary notice having expired, the remedy for the Charles-street open sewer be applied by the Council at the cost of the owners; that the houses in the town be numbered with raised iron figures, the even numbers being placed on the right hand side of the street, and the odd on the left; that, having discovered the buried remains of the boundary wall at the N.E. corner of Oakwellgate, it be rebuilt, to correct the encroachment of the railway company; that the public manure depôt be removed from Oakwellgate-lane to the north side of Park-lane, east of Backfield House, there to be connected by a branch siding with the railway; that, in lieu of the present defective and inefficient arrangement, *the entire responsibility of the removal of all refuse whatsoever*, within the paved footway district, *and the scavenage of all streets* (including turnpike roads), *be undertaken by the Council*, as indispensable to the proper cleansing of the town; that Hillgate and Pipewellgate be repaved in the spring, and the alleys leading to the river flagged; and that notices be served upon the owners and occupiers of property on the line of road from Hillgate to the Gateshead Ironworks, with a view to its being put into a state of proper repair.

5. The Committee recommended the transference of the manure depôt.

6. The views of the Surveyor as to the removal of ashes and excrementitious matters contained in ashpits, and for the sewerage of roads, streets, and lanes, the Committee recommended to the serious consideration of the Council.

7. Approving Mr. Hall's recommendation as to additional lamps (in Easton-court, at the east end of Hillgate, and the top of Bridge-street), the Committee suggested that the attention of the gas company should be called to the insufficient manner in which the public lamps were lighted.

8. The Committee recommended that the paving of Pipewellgate (but not of Hillgate) be renewed this year. The repair of the South Shore road to be deferred.

9. The Surveyor's plan for carrying an extra story over Mr. Schorey's kitchen and offices, to give increased accommodation at the Townhall, at a cost of £155, to be (with the sanction of the Council) adopted.

10. Sewer near Mr. Wilson's skinnery, Hillgate, to be extended to the Churchwardens' property adjoining; and Churchwardens to be obliged to make proper conveniences, and drain into the sewer.

11. Accounts to be paid and rates to be sealed.

The report having been received, its clauses were taken consecutively.

It was resolved that Mr. Rochester's offer be accepted; and, on the motion of Mr. Cook, that when next the interest was paid, all the monies hitherto paid by the Council as income tax, in respect of this portion of the lender's revenue, be deducted.

As to Mr. Hall's cleansing suggestions, Mr. Ald. Robson said, if they could be carried out, no more effectual means of securing the desired object could be adopted, and, when in full operation, the plans would cover all the expenses incurred.

Mr. Hall was instructed to report further at t next meeting.

Mr. Hymers inquired, in reference to the proposal to repair Pipewellgate, if there was a sewer in the street?

Mr. Hall: No.

Mr. Hymers thought, as a sewer, sooner or later, must be constructed, it would be a pity to repave the street just now; and, after a short discussion, the recommendation contained in the report was negatived.

In reply to Mr. Cook, Mr. Hall stated, that when improvements were made, at the cost of owners of property, under his superintendence, the net outlay was alone charged. His own time and skill were not taken into account.

It further appeared, that for the collection of the quotas of the respective owners, Mr. Fairs received a commission of 2½ per cent.

Mr. Cook thought the arrangement a most improvident one. It was surely enough that the owners of property got the benefit of Mr. Hall's time and ability *gratis*—they should be made to pay their proportions of the cost to the Treasurer, or the Treasurer (not Mr. Fairs) should collect them.

Mr. Hewitt thought, if any charge were made, the 2½ per cent. should be charged to the owners.

The public, it was stated, derived great benefit from the services of Mr. Fairs, there being very little arrears, owing to his admirable collection of rates, &c.

Mr. Allhusen brought forward his motion that Mr. Hall be instructed to prepare plans of a public quay at Hillgate, for the loading and unloading of vessels. Such a project, he said, would have been premature twenty years ago, when Gateshead was so unflatteringly alluded to in parliament; but, since that time, it had very nearly doubled its population. He therefore thought the time had come when his proposal ought to be considered. There were various grounds on which it might be recommended for adoption. The Tyne Commissioners would probably, at an early day, decide upon the adoption of the river lines and other improvements, which would, in his opinion, involve the removal of Tyne Bridge alongside of the High Level Bridge; for as long as the old bridge remained on its present site, there could be no proper flow of the tide; and if it were removed, the whole of the property from Bridge-street to the High Level must be taken down. There were also docks in progress of construction and in contemplation, which, when completed, would materially improve the trade of the Tyne, and Gateshead should place herself in a position to enjoy a fair share of the increase. On sanitary grounds, too, his proposal was entitled to consideration, as the town could never be called healthy until Hillgate and Pipewellgate were swept away. There was no reason why Gateshead should not make progress in trade and commerce equally with Newcastle. He was of opinion that a good quay on this side of the water would benefit both places. The value of property in Gateshead would be enhanced—its rental increased. The improvement would defray its own cost. Something like 16,000 square yards of ground would be acquired. To do justice to the undertaking, he would recommend the pulling down of Hillgate. Unless every building were removed in the first place, it would be impossible to complete the improvement in a satisfactory manner; but if that course were adopted, 25 buildings of a first-rate character might

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form the frontage, and a quay of 100 feet in width would remain, whilst Newcastle quay averaged but from 50 to 60 feet. If the old bridge were removed, it was likely that they would have as good water at Gateshead as there was at Newcastle. With regard to the cost, he would make the following observations. He estimated that £40,000 would be required to purchase the buildings, and that the erection of the new frontage would amount to £37,500, making in all £77,500. He considered that each of the houses—which would be 40 feet front by 60 feet deep—would produce a rental of £175, or, altogether, £4,375 per annum, or 5 per cent. on the entire cost. The undertaking, therefore, would pay itself. He believed he was very moderate in estimating the annual value of each house, as single rooms, barely half the size of that council-chamber, were let at £50 per year on Newcastle quay. The gain to Gateshead would be the improvement of the whole property of the town. Instead of being one of the dirtiest and most unwholesome places in the kingdom, its character would be totally changed. A locality disgraceful to civilized society would be removed from the face of the earth. This desirable consummation would be achieved by carrying out what he believed to be a good pecuniary speculation; but even if there should be a sacrifice of £20,000, where would be the difficulty of raising the money? Parliament would give power to borrow money on security of the rates, the loan to be repaid by instalments. The rateable value of the property of Gateshead was now £45,000; and by the proposed improvement it would be greatly increased — probably doubled; so that 2½ per cent. on the rates would meet the sacrifice. He hoped that his resolution, which, for the present, would simply entail a little additional labour on their excellent Surveyor, would be adopted by the Council.

Mr. GRAY suggested one or two verbal amendments; which being acceded to by Mr. Allhusen, he seconded the motion.

Mr. ALLHUSEN begged to be allowed to supply an omission in his case. Pipewellgate, he said, being removed (as, no doubt, it must be), the Gateshead quay would be connected with a trunk railway on both sides—with the Newcastle and Carlisle, and the York, Newcastle, and Berwick—an advantage possessed by few other quays in the kingdom.

Mr. HEWITT said, if Gateshead stood on a fair footing, the project might be a promising one. But Newcastle, it must be borne in mind, was entitled to two-thirds of any quay-dues that might be levied in Gateshead; and if parliament were to be applied to for the removal of this unneighbourly arrangement, Newcastle, judging by the past, would make a desperate fight for its retention. He looked upon this obstacle as fatal to the scheme.

Mr. ALLHUSEN said, there was every reason to anticipate that quay and other dues on the Tyne would shortly be abolished. There was every likelihood that the Shipping Dues Commissioners would report in favour of such an abolition, and of the substitution of one consolidated due; and it was not expected that the Corporation of Newcastle would resist the change.

Mr. HALL stated, in reply to Mr. HEWITT, that all his time was now occupied by the map of the eastern district, and the Cholera Commissioners had cut out at least a fortnight's work for him; but when he had got through those engagements, he could prepare plans and estimates of the proposed quay.

Mr. HEWITT: Will that meet your view, Mr. Allhusen?

Mr. ALLHUSEN: Oh, certainly.

The motion was put and carried.

Mr. COOK called attention to the main sewer in High-street, which had been constructed some four years ago at great cost, and yet not a tithe—he might say a fiftieth—of the houses on each side were connected with it by drains. They were now preparing for another main drain on the east side of the town, and they were building baths and washhouses, while this great public work was lying comparatively idle. Surely they should make use of so costly a gutter, now that it was made; and he would move that the Public Health Committee be requested to give it their attention, with a view to compelling owners and occupiers to use it for the purposes for which it was constructed.

Mr. HEWITT seconded the motion, and it was carried.

Some other business was transacted, and the meeting came to a close.

GATESHEAD POOR LAW UNION.

BOARD ROOM, JAN. 10. — Present:—The Chairman and Vice-Chairman; H. Hurst, Esq., Poor Law Inspector; G. H. Ramsay and Joseph Robson, Esqrs.; and Messrs. Brinton, Bagnall, Cook, Fawcett, Ionn, Murray, and Tomlin.

Mr. COOK (for the Clerk) read the minutes, and brought the usual routine business before the meeting. The accounts showed the arrears of poor rate due from the several parishes, &c., to be—

Heworth	£225	0	0	Ryton Woodside	£60	0	0
Chopwell	17	10	0	Stella	25	0	0
Crawcrook	16	5	0	Whickham	263	10	0
Ryton	35	0	0	Winlaton	203	0	0

Total arrears, £845 5s. Balance in the hands of the Treasurer, £415 11s. 8d. Cheques to be issued this day, £360 1s. 2d.; reducing the balance to £55 10s. 6d.

Number of inmates in the workhouse at the commencement of the past fortnight, 177; at its close, 171; at the corresponding period of 1853, 194. Number of persons receiving outdoor relief in the first week of the fortnight, 2,343:—second week, 2,321. Relief in kind, £23 7s. 10d.:—in money, £258 13s. 6d.

A letter was read from Mr. Atlee, late of the Gateshead Dispensary, applying for remuneration for extra services during the epidemic. Also, a letter from Mr. F. S. Brown, of Winlaton, renewing his application for £11 for services on the same occasion. The Guardians declined compliance in each instance.

Mr. MURRAY stated, that he was not aware, when he moved the payment of £100 to Mr. Counsellor, in lieu of his bill, that it included £22 11s. 7d. due to an assistant, Mr. Banbury. The Heworth Committee authorized the employment of assistants, and said they would be paid. Under these circumstances, he would give notice of a motion that the sum of £22 11s. 7d. be paid, in addition to the £100.

A communication was read from Mr. G. D. Trotter, County Treasurer, calling for the payment, by January 11, of police-rate and county-rate, amounting to £555 15s. 0½d.

Mr. RAMSAY observed, that the county-rate, this year, amounted only to twopence in the pound, or

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about one-half what it was a few years ago. It would not be easy to go much lower.

A letter was read from the Poor Law Board, intimating that a quarterly report ought to be made, by the medical officer, on the lunatic inmates of the workhouse.—Mr. Cook stated that he had paid attention to the communication, and supplied Mr. Wilson with the requisite forms.

A letter was read from the Chairman of the Cholera Commission, of which the following is a copy :—

CHOLERA INQUIRY COMMISSION.
36, Oxford-terrace. Hyde Park, London,
January 7, 1854.

Sir,—On behalf of myself and my fellow-commissioners, I beg to request that you will forthwith direct the Assistant-Overseers or other competent officers of each parish or district of Gateshead, to prepare from the books a correct statement of—

1. The number of houses in each parish or district occupied by single families.
2. The number of houses let in tenements.
3. The number of seperate tenements in tenemented houses, distinguishing the number of such tenements which consist of but a single room, or two or more rooms.

Also, a statement of the expenses incurred by the whole union of Gateshead during the months of September and October, 1853—

1. For attending the sick :—viz , expenses of extra medical attendants or services, of nurses, drugs, dispensaries, houses of refuge, or temporary hospitals.
2. For burying the dead—specifying the number of burials performed.
2. Of the number of widows, orphans, aged, or others, who thereby became chargeable to the union.
4. Of the weekly expenses which have since been incurred for the maintenance of these people, so far as you can discover or estimate the same.

Further, a statement of the expenses incurred for the removal of nuisances, cleansing, limewashing, and other sanitary works, during the said months of September and October, 1853; as also of the average annual expenditure for similar sanitary purposes during the last seven years.

Finally, if, owing to the peculiar relations of the Board of Guardians and of the Local Board of Health, any of the information above requested should not be obtainable by the officers under the control of the Board of Guardians, or without the coöperation of the officers of the Local Board of Health, I have to request that, in that case, you will be good enough to put yourself in communication with the Clerk to the Local Board of Health, or otherwise use your utmost endeavours to obtain, as soon as possible, the information in question, which will be absolutely necessary to enable the Commissioners to proceed effectually in the purposes of their inquiry

I have the honour to remain,
Your obedient Servant,
J. Burnley Hume.

Robert Foreman, Esq., Clerk, &c.

On the motion of Mr. Ionn, seconded by Mr. Bagnall, it was resolved that, as far as possible, the information sought by Mr. Hume be supplied.

Mr. Hurst, referring to the smallness of the balance in the Treasurer's hands, and the largeness of the call from the County Treasurer, urged upon the Board the propriety of requiring prompt payment from the several parishes, &c., of the union, and read the law on the subject.

After some discussion, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Ald. Robson, seconded by Mr. Brinton, that the Clerk be instructed to give notice that unless the arrears due were paid within a week, summonses would be taken out to enforce payment.

Mr. Hurst called attention to the Clerkship. If, he said, the illness of the Clerk was merely temporary, the present arrangement was a very proper one, and what was being done by the gentleman on his right was perfectly unobjectionable. He would be the last man to interfere in a case of simply temporary indisposition. He was afraid, however, that the Clerk's illness was not temporary; and if so, the arrangement was irregular. He would not call upon the Guardians to take any step at the present meeting; he had no wish to press the Board to call upon the Clerk for an immediate resignation; but should it be found, after the lapse of a month or six weeks, that his illness was more than temporary, he thought they should call upon him to resign, that a successor might be appointed in his room, and the duties of so responsible an office be discharged in person.

Mr. Ramsay said, he believed Mr. Foreman still discharged the duties of his office, with the exception of attending the meetings of the Board. A little nervousness kept him away.

Mr. Cook said, Mr. Ramsay was quite correct. Early in September Mr. Foreman was seized with partial paralysis. It was expected that his health would shortly be restored, and, to some extent, it was so. But he was still not sufficiently well to bear attendance on the Board. He was, however, undergoing a course of treatment under the care of an eminent medical man; and he hoped that the result would be favourable. Should it prove otherwise, the Clerk would not claim an extension of the indulgence of the Guardians, but would place his resignation in their hands within the period mentioned by Mr. Hurst.

Mr. Ramsay inquired if there was any retiring allowance?

Mr. Hurst replied in the negative.

Mr. Fawcett said, he had no desire to complain of the Clerk's deputy, but it was desirable that their proceedings should be regular. He believed that the Vice-Chairman, under existing circumstances, should first be called upon to perform the duties; and if he declined, that then the Board should make choice of some other Guardian. Mr. Cook was appointed, not by the Board, but by Mr. Foreman himself. It would be better, if the Vice-Chairman declined to act, that the Guardians, for the sake of regularity, should appoint Mr. Cook or some other member of the Board.

Mr. Ramsay said the Board had tacitly accepted Mr. Cook's services, and thus approved his appointment.

M. Robson thought, after the intimation made by Mr. Cook, the matter might have rested where it was. He would move, however, that Mr. Cook be appointed as Mr. Foreman's deputy.

Mr. Tomlin seconded the motion.

Mr. Hurst said, Mr. Fawcett was not quite right. The Vice Chairman, although first named, had no preference. Either he could serve, or the Board, if they preferred it, could name some other Guardian.

The motion was put and carried.

Mr. Hurst suggested to Mr. Cook that he should now report his appointment to the Board in London.

Mr. Cook said he would do so.

Mr. Cook said, there was a subject which he felt called upon to bring under the notice of the Board, although he did so with great pain. On looking over the accounts, he found that payments had been made to members of that Board for goods supplied to the union. He did not refer to cholera charges. He was of opinion that, in such an emergency as the late

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epidemic, it was a wise, judicious, and allowable step to make use, as medical depôts, of the shops of chemist and druggists, even although they were Guardians. But there were accounts sent in, having no connection with cholera, by Mr. Fawcett and Mr. Monro, members of the Board, for goods supplied to the workhouse. He would ask Mr. Hurst whether or not this was legal. In his opinion it was contrary to law, and savoured, also, of bad taste. Mr. Main, the workhouse master, had reminded him (Mr. Cook) that he himself had signed one of the orders. Mr. Main was correct. He (Mr. Cook) was not aware, when he did so, as a matter of routine, that the order was for a Guardian, or he would not have given his signature. Mr. Main said, as to Mr. Fawcett, he was not to blame. Mr. Fawcett had applied to him for orders, saying it was very hard if he was to be debarred from supplying goods; and he (Mr. M.) said he had no objection if Mr. Foreman were willing. It was true, the amount was not large—only £3 1s. 9d.; but he objected to such transactions on principle. A Guardian should not place himself in the position of giving himself orders for goods, and perhaps signing his own cheques.

Mr. FAWCETT said, before Mr. Hurst replied, he wished to say one or two words. He was aware that no Guardian could contract to supply the union with goods. He had thought, however, that a Guardian could supply such trifling matters as oils, black lead, &c., not usually contracted for; and he was still of opinion that such transactions were not prohibited. He would not dispute with Mr. Cook on questions of taste; he might possibly be less fastidious than Mr. Cook; but if it were lawful in him to supply the workhouse with small articles, he saw not why he should be precluded from doing so, because he gave his time to the service of the public.

Mr. HURST referred to the statutes of George and William, which, he said, placed it beyond the shadow of a shade of a doubt that no Guardian could legally supply goods in the manner in question. He could neither supply by contract or otherwise, but was liable for so doing to a penalty of £100, recoverable by any person who chose to sue.

Mr. FAWCETT said, if he had been aware that such was the law, he would assuredly not have supplied the workhouse with any article, however trifling.

Mr. RAMSAY said, the amount was so small it could be no object to Mr. Fawcett, but it was desirable that they should be regular in their proceedings.

Mr. HURST: Just so. The Guardians must adhere to the law. A Guardian must not be both buyer and seller at the same time.

Two or three matters in connection with the workhouse were enforced upon the consideration of the Board by Mr. HURST, and in particular the performance for the girls of the same service that had been rendered to the boys (in the building of a new ward)—of which, we believe, the Guardians have not been unmindful.

The day being far advanced, the consideration of the circular of the Manchester Conference of Poor Law Guardians was deferred to the next meeting, and the Board proceeded to the relief of the poor.

SHAVE! SHAVE! SHAVE!—The comforts of a clean Shave are most fully realized by using the Almond shaving Paste, sold by John Fawcett, chemist, High-street, Gateshead.

THE COAL TRADE.

NEWCASTLE, JAN. 18.—The large fleet of coal-laden vessels which had been accumulating in the northern ports during the recent bad weather, have nearly all put to sea. We have had two heavy sea tides during the past 24 hours, and next tide will about clear the harbour. The vessels that were blown down to Leith-roads are also getting up. Several laden vessels passed Shields bar yesterday from the north for London. These vessels were Newcastle colliers. Coal freights on Newcastle quay are 13s. per ton to London. If they only could procure coals and decent passages, there are an immense number of vessels in the trade. In former times, about this season of the year, a considerable quantity of tonnage employed in the American and Baltic trades during the summer months was laid up in the harbours on the north-east coast; but now, on account of the high rate of freights, they are all in employment. The losses occasioned by the late gale will fall heavily upon the underwriters, though vessels belonging to southern ports have suffered more in proportion than northcountry colliers. A considerable proportion of those wrecked at the mouth of the Tyne were strange vessels. Foreigners have suffered most severely in the late gale. The principal part of the crews drowned during the storm were foreigners. The *Breakwater*, *Conference*, and *Mountaineer* colliers, and the *Aurora* bark, have been got off the Herd Sand.

The following official statistics have been published with regard to the importation of seaborne coals into the port of London in 1853:—

	1852. Tons.		1853. Tons.
Tyne house coals	355,587	...	283,086
Sunderland Seaham ditto	912,249	...	884,372
Hartlepool and Stockton ditto	690,335	...	655,789
Total house coals	1,958,171	...	1,823,247
Steam	297,488	...	340,714
Gas	519,458	...	580,780
Coking	180,700	...	229,664
Manufacturing	233,840	...	251,944
Welsh	99,643	...	82,953
Yorkshire, &c.	19,297	...	23,942
Small	21,831	...	40,012
Total	3,330,428	...	3,373,256

COALS IMPORTED BY RAILWAY AND CANAL.

Great Northern	195,865	...	358,775
North Western	137,978	...	173,346
Eastern Counties	28,816	...	68,148
Great Western	4,596	...	16,589
South-Eastern	10,652	...	12,854
Grand Junction Canal	33,800	...	21,602
River Thames	113	...	42
	411,820		651,356

Though there was a falling off in the import of seaborne house coals in 1853, it was nearly compensated by the quantity (94,000 tons) brought by railway from the county of Durham.

There has been an increase in the steam, gas, coking, and manufacturing coals, which are chiefly shipped from the Tyne. The following quantities have been shipped from the chief collieries in that river:—

New Pelton	98,437	Peareth	53,273
Pelaw Main	68,667	Ravensworth Pelaw	49,026
Dean's Primrose	57,260		

Of cannel coal there was shipped from the Tyne in

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1853 27,000 tons—more than treble the quantity in 1852.

The number of tons shipped for London by the leading coal collieries in the north in the past year was as under :—

Lord Londondery's	236,363	Haswell	106,824
South Hetton and Kelloe	169,515	Thornley	94,958
Lord Durham's	146,295	North Hetton	85,522
Hetton	114,469	Black Boy	76,019

The following is the quantity of coals shipped from the respective ports to the metropolis, and the number of ships entered by each factor :—

Ships.		Tons.
4,451	Newcastle	1,411,207
2,016	Sunderland	614 344
1,331	Seaham	318,861
2,486	Hartlepool, &c.	673,709
582	Stockton, &c.	133,271
325	Blyth	65,737
78	Scotch	13 611
335	Welsh	82,542
333	Yorkshire	24.247
1	Liverpool	130
124	Small coal	31,778
12,062		3,369,437
2	Culm	440
47	Cinders	3,379
12,111		3,373,256

	Ships.		Ships.
Hill & Co.	1,792	Fenwick, Laroche, & Co.	339
Harris & Dixon	1,116	F. D. Lambert	288
H. Taylor	915	W. E. Bell	247
Charleton & Watson	731	Carr, Lamb, & Co.	128
Marshall & Page	710		9,119
S. Clarke	655	Agents	1,338
W. Mitcalfe	640		10,457
Smith, Scurfield, & Co.	596		
W. Milnes	572		
Miller & Potter	450		

With regard to these facts, the *Newcastle Chronicle* says :—"It will doubtless cause surprise to many in London to find that they have been, by the simple action of supply and demand, compelled to pay from 25 to 100 per cent. more for their coals in 1853 than in 1852, though the quantity sent to London in 1853 was in excess by 284,736 tons—the total annual supply from all sources having reached 4,026,985 tons."—*Times.*

THE WILSON TESTIMONIAL.

On Monday, Jan. 23, there was a numerous meeting, at Miss Murray's, the Half Moon inn, of subscribers to the "Wilson Testimonial" and their friends, including Messrs. George Crawshay, C. J. Gibb, G. A. Hutton, H. Wilkinson, James Clephan, William Wylam, John Potts, John Vickers, F. P. Ionn, William Revely, T. Pringle, H. L. Monro, James Hewitt, S. Neville, John Harrison, John Fawcett, Joseph Clephan, John Hunter, &c., &c., with several ladies. In the absence of George Hawks, Esq., from indisposition, Mr. James Hewitt, a member of the Town Council and Board of Guardians, was called upon to preside; and Mr. Joseph Clephan, who had principally acted for the Treasurer and Secretary, read a brief report, showing that upwards of 160 ladies and gentlemen had subscribed, whose aggregate contributions, after payment of expenses, left a net disposable fund of £107; of which £7 had been expended in the purchase of a small silver salver at Reid & Sons, bearing an inscription acknowledging the services of Mr. R. H. Wilson, medical officer of the north district of Gateshead, during the cholera epidemic of 1853, and the remaining £100 lay on the salver in a purse worked for the occasion. The subscribers, he stated, comprised the Mayor and Rector of Gateshead, and other principal inhabitants, (the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Poor Law Union, and several Guardians, Magistrates, Aldermen, and Councillors).

The Chairman called upon George Crawshay, Esq., a member of the Board of Guardians, to present the testimonial.

Mr. Crawshay then delivered an address of which the following is a copy, and which was frequently interrupted by applause :—Mr. Wilson, — To present a testimonial is to me an entirely novel and somewhat embarrassing task—but one which, in the present instance, I could not refuse to undertake. I should certainly have had very considerable hesitation in responding to the call which has been made upon me, had it so happened that I had any right to call you by the sacred name of friend. I might then have suspected my own motives; for no principle do I hold more firmly than that the claims of private friendship and of public duty should ever be kept carefully and jealously distinct. But, until this evening, I have not even had the pleasure of making your personal acquaintance; and the words which I now address to you are the first which I have ever addressed to you. It is as impossible as it would be undesirable that the same can be the case with so numerous a body of your neighbours as the subscribers to the testimonial which I shall have the honour to present to you in their name; but I am confident that I exactly represent their sentiments when I say for them, as for myself, that it is on public grounds, and public grounds alone, that they have come forward on this occasion. (Applause.) The cholera of September and October last was a great public calamity; and the services of the medical profession in Newcastle and Gateshead, during that awful period, were eminently public services—for which not those who were sick only, but the whole community, remain heavily in their debt. The case is precisely the same as that of firemen who keep down and limit, until it burns out, a conflagration which might otherwise consume a whole town. Suppose for an instant, if we can by any stretch of imagination suppose such a thing, that our medical men had *not* done their duty :—where would the mischief have ended? 2,000 perished as it was; but how many times as many might have died but for timely care? The prosperity of the district was seriously affected by the panic that actually occurred; but had the rate of mortality been much greater, the panic would have become such as to have brought something very like ruin upon us all—(a consideration which, it is to be hoped, will not be lost sight of, when sanitary measures are considered from an economical point of view). Now, however doubtful may be the efficacy of medical relief in the later stages of cholera, there can be no doubt whatever of its efficacy in the earlier stages. The prompt administration of this relief by the medical profession, was the means by which, under Providence, we were saved from being absolutely overwhelmed by the enemy that assailed us. When, with hardly a figure of speech, nearly all of us were ill together, it was impossible to give sufficiently prompt assistance without the most extraordinary exertions. Night and day

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they rested not; with shattered health and failing strength they still held on; life was exposed and life was lost in the conflict. Two medical men in Newcastle and one in Gateshead died at their posts. You, Mr. Wilson, are one of others to whom these observations equally apply, and I can give you no higher praise. (Applause.) But, during that time of trial, you filled the office, which you still so worthily occupy, of medical officer to the workhouse and densely-populated town district of Gateshead. A peculiar responsibility thus rested upon you, and much was expected of you—but not more than you performed. (Applause.) You were placed in a conspicuous position, in which the eyes of your fellow-townsmen were upon you—and I only express their unanimous opinion when I say that you proved yourself "every inch a man," and fully equal to the arduous duties which so suddenly and unexpectedly devolved upon you. (Applause.) The Board of Guardians, to whom you are officially responsible, have adopted a resolution recording their admiration of your conduct. It is as a supplement to that resolution, and in your character as a public servant, that, in the name of the subscribers, I present this testimonial to you, together with their good wishes. (Applause.) May you long enjoy that health and happiness which you have been the means of preserving to so many! and may you long continue to adorn that noble profession towards which, in your person, I have attempted to express to-night the general sentiment of gratitude and pride! (Applause.)

Mr. Wilson responded as follows:—Mr. Crawshay Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with the most sincere feelings of gratitude to you, and the numerous contributors, that I accept this very valuable testimonial. Intrinsically it is very valuable, but to me its worth is immeasurably enhanced from a knowledge of the circumstances that have preceded this presentation. I feel greatly honoured that I, as a public officer, should have been selected as the person upon whom you have bestowed this very substantial evidence of your approbation of the efforts made by the medical gentlemen of the town during the late very fatal epidemic. At that awful period, when life seemed so insecure, medical men were denied leisure either for repose or reflection; for duty urgently demanded every moment of their time to combat with disease in its most deadly and virulent form; their position became, indeed, one of the most onerous and critical that could well be imagined; and that, during this important and trying period, their conduct should have been such as to merit your kind approval, is most gratifying. The substantiating of that approval by this very handsome presentation, places me under a debt of gratitude which it will be ever out of my power to repay; and I can only trust that, by earnestly devoting myself hereafter to the discharge of those important duties which I owe to the poor, I may prove to you how fully I appreciate your great kindness. To you, Sir, I offer my grateful thanks for your kindness in officiating on the present occasion; also to Mr. James Clephan, the Secretary, and to the other gentlemen who have with so much zeal and kindly feeling taken such an active interest in promoting the testimonial. I beg with pleasure to acknowledge the honour conferred upon me by the assemblage of so large a company on this occasion, and I willingly confess the special honour which I feel from the presence of so many ladies (applause); and permit me, in conclusion, again to thank you most gratefully for your great kindness, and to express my best wishes for your health and happiness. (Applause.)

A vote of thanks having been passed by acclamation, on the motion of Mr. Fawcett (a Guardian), to Mr. Crawshay, for his services in presenting the testimonial, and for the admirable manner in which he had expressed the sentiments of the subscribers,

Mr. Crawshay acknowledged the compliment, and said:—If, by any chance, a report of these proceedings should come under the notice of the editor of the *Hull Advertiser*, that gentleman would possibly be inclined to doubt his (Mr. C.'s) personal identity with the individual of the same name who had recently taken part in a meeting in Newcastle against Russia—the object of the promoters of which, the Hull editor had ingeniously suggested, was to get an opportunity for carrying on piracy under the name of privateering. (Much laughter.) But, to speak seriously, he (Mr. C.) considered it his duty as a good citizen, on the one hand, not to withhold his attention from any matters affecting his country, however geographically distant; and, upon the other, to exert himself to promote the welfare of the locality in which his lot had been cast, which he believed himself to have been doing something towards, on the present occasion. (Hear, hear.) If they would excuse him for venturing a moment on the domains of political philosophy, he would say that the two cardinal articles of his faith were the promotion of a just foreign policy and of the cause of local self-government. He looked forward to a great development of the latter, and trusted that the time would come when our local institutions would be not less efficient than they undoubtedly were in guarding the public purse, and yet be animated by some higher spirit than that of mere economy. In such a future time, he could imagine that it would not be attempted to confer public honours by any proceeding that had even the remotest semblance of privacy, but that, in some solemn and authorized manner, those would be duly rewarded, who, like Mr. Wilson, had deserved well of the community to which they belonged. (Hear, hear.)

Thanks were unanimously voted to Miss Murray, on the motion of Mr. James Clephan, for her liberality in repeatedly granting the use of a room to the Committee and subscribers free of charge. Mr. C. took occasion to say, that the testimonial was originated by Mr. Crawshay—in whose case the old adage, "As the old cock crows the young one learns," had been reversed; for when Mr. Crawshay junior had subscribed very handsomely, Mr. Crawshay senior copied his excellent example. (Applause.)

Mr. Wilson moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was cordially awarded by the company, and the proceedings closed.

In addition to the subscriptions already announced in our columns, there have been received the following:—

George Crawshay, Esq., sen.	£5	0	0	Mrs. R. H.	£0 10 0
R. W. Gillespie, Esq.	1	0	0	Mr. T. Reed	0 10 0
William Davey, Esq.	0	10	0	Mr. J. Hurley	0 10 0
Mr. R. H.	0	10	0	Miss ——	0 10 0
				Dr. F.	0 10 0

GATESHEAD POOR LAW UNION.

BOARD ROOM, JAN. 24.—Present:—The Chairman, and Messrs. Clark (William), Murray, Makepeace,

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Hewitt, Crawshay, Cook, Fawcett, Brinton, and Ionn.

Mr. Cook read a letter from the Poor Law Board sanctioning his temporary appointment as Clerk.

The usual returns were made. It appeared that, in the first week of the past fortnight, 2,389 outdoor paupers had been relieved, at a cost of £146 7s. 4d.; and in the second week, 2,351, at a cost of £133 7s. 10d.

Some business was transacted in connection with the Vaccination Extension Act.

Mr. Cook reported the issue of steps taken under the resolution of the last meeting as to the enforcement of arrears of calls, and made a statement showing that, with the exception of £144 10s. due from Whickham, all the districts stood square with the Guardians. The balance in hand, after payment of cheques, fell short of £400; and the county had a claim upon the union for £500.

The Magistrates, in the case of Whickham, had granted the Overseers a little conditional grace. As to Heworth, the Clerk's proceedings had been vitiated by an informality, of which the Overseers took advantage; and before the error could be cured, they paid-up the whole of the call.

Several notices of marriage were read, one of the brides-elect being a girl of 17.

Mr. Cook, after briefly recapitulating what had passed at the previous meeting as to the supplying of goods to the union by Guardians, stated that an account had been sent in by Mr. James Hewitt for an invalid's chair on wheels, his charge for which was £2. Before affixing his name to a cheque for payment of this account, he wished to have the advice of the Board?

Mr. Hewitt said, the question raised by Mr. Cook could very soon be settled. Would the Chairman be so kind as to say whether or not it was lawful for a Guardian to make a present of his property to the workhouse?

The Chairman: Perfectly lawful.

Mr. Hewitt: Very well, then:—I give the girl the chair; and you may burn the bill. (Applause.)

Mr. Makepeace said, the girl for whom the chair had been provided was a very good girl, and made herself useful in the house as a teacher.

Mr. Ionn said, there had been great difficulty in meeting with a suitable chair, and they were glad when one was provided at last by Mr. Hewitt, who undertook the commission before he was a Guardian.

It being stated that the girl was about to leave the house, Mr. Hewitt was asked whether he gave his chair to her or to the union? "Oh," said he, "to the girl, of course." (Applause.)

Mr. Cook read a letter from the Public Works Loan Commissioners, from which it appeared that a loan of £1,000 could be had at 4 per cent.; and arrangements were made accordingly.

Mr. C. also read a letter from Archdeacon Thorp, *ex officio* a member of the Board, respectfully suggesting that the scale of outdoor relief should be proportioned to the high price of food. The Guardians gave instructions to Mr. C. to assure the Venerable Archdeacon that his suggestion should receive their best consideration.

A note was read from Mr. B. J. Prockter, vouching for the respectability of one John Brownlee, shoemaker, who wished to adopt as his own an orphan girl, aged ten years, now an inmate of the workhouse. Being called in, he stated that he had a wife, but no child. They had aforetime adopted two children, one of whom had got married, and the other (named Farrage) died of the cholera in 1849, in Prockter's Buildings, Pipewellgate. He and his wife, he said, had but one room, near the Brandling Junction Railway. The Board said, they would give the matter their consideration.

On the motion of Mr. Makepeace, seconded by Mr. Brinton, it was resolved that parliament be petitioned not to renew the bill establishing the Poor Law Board, and that the petition be sent to Mr. Hutt for presentation.

Mr. Murray brought forward his motion to grant Mr. Counsellor, in addition to the £100 already voted to him, the sum of £20 odd, which he had paid to Mr. Banbury as an assistant. If this motion were carried, he believed that Mr. C. would accept the sums named as payment in full.

The motion, not being seconded, fell to the ground; and some other business having been transacted, the Board proceeded to the relief of the poor.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.

THE ANNUAL BALL, for the Benefit of the Dispensary, will be held at the Assembly Rooms, Newcastle, on THURSDAY, February 23, 1854, (Music at 9). The Stewards will be announced next week.

JOHN SKELTON, Hon. Sec.

Gateshead, January 27, 1854.

TO STONE MASONS AND QUARRYMEN.

AN excellent STONE QUARRY to be SOLD or LET, situated in High-street, Gateshead. For particulars apply at No. 39, High-street.

GATESHEAD SOUP KITCHEN.

AT a Meeting of the Inhabitants, held at the Townhall, on the 3d of January, 1854, (the MAYOR in the Chair,) it was resolved to reöpen the Kitchen as soon as possible.

The Committee have to state, in compliance with the above, that the Soup Kitchen has been in full operation for three weeks, and they now appeal to the Public to aid them in so desirable an object.

Subscriptions received by the Treasurer, Joseph Abbot Hymers, or Messrs. Greene & Sons, Messrs. C. Garbutt & Son, the *Observer* Office, Gateshead; or at the Commercial Bank, Newcastle.

The Boroughholders and Freemen of Gateshead	£5	0	0	A Lady	£1 0 0
Newcastle Gas Company	2	2	0	Mr. R. H. Wilson	0 10 0
F. J. Crow, Esq.	2	0	0	Mr. James Wilson	0 10 0
				Mr. John Skelton	0 10 0
				A Friend	0 2 6

Browne's Export List. — This valuable work has reached its third number, the latter comprising the reports for the month of December. We are happy to learn, from all quarters, that the list is giving every satisfaction, amply redeeming the pledges of its author, and more than justifying the high anticipations we formed, from the commencement, of its usefulness to trade, and its benefit to the district.

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THE CATHOLICS OF GATESHEAD. — The Rev. F. Betham has retired from the pastoral charge of the Catholics of this borough. He was a most assiduous and faithful priest, and, by the zealous discharge of his duty to his own Church, won the approbation of dutiful members of every other. A scholar and a gentleman, he had many Protestant as well as Catholic friends, and his departure is widely regretted. He leaves, we believe, to enter the Society of Jesus, and will shortly repair to Rome. We have not heard that any permanent successor has been appointed to Gateshead. The late Rev. Canon Gillow bequeathed, we understand, the sum of £1,000 towards the erection of a Catholic church in Gateshead; so that Mr. Betham's project will probably be carried out, although he himself is gone.

THE GATESHEAD TOWN-COUNCIL.

PRESENT:—David Haggie, Mayor; Aldermen John Lister, C. J. Pearson, Joseph Robson, and James Smith; Councillors George Brinton, William Cook, E. Clawshay, William Douglas, James Hewitt, R. W. Hodgson, J. A. Hymers, F. P. Ionn, G. Patterson, John Skelton, John Vickers, and James Wilson.

The February quarterly meeting was held on Wednesday, Feb. 1. The minutes having been read,

The MAYOR presented a report from the Watch Committee. Among other matters, it recommended that, to meet the rise in the price of food, the wages of the police be advanced to the following scale:—The three classes of policemen to receive respectively 17s., 18s., and 20s. per week. The inspectors to have 24s. The superintendent's salary to form the subject of a future recommendation. The Committee submitted for consideration a petition to parliament in favour of reformatory schools in preference to juvenile imprisonment. After dealing with accounts and rates, the report suggested that a copy of the petition on the question raised by the parliamentary committee on county and borough police consolidation, be transmitted to the chairman of a meeting to be held in London on the subject.—Report received and adopted.

Mr. Ald. SMITH present a report from the Finance Committee, which was received, and, after a little conversation, confirmed.

The accounts exhibited a balance of borough fund amounting to £568 12s. 10d., subject to the payment of £51 5s. 1d. in outstanding bills. The borough rate due November 1 was reported to be yet unpaid, and only £100 paid on account of the watch-rate of 1853. It was recommended that a borough rate of twopence be laid—(one-half as watch-rate)—to be made payable on the 1st of May.

The Committee appointed to confer with the Churchwardens and Overseers on the proposed consolidation of the collection of the watch and borough rates, reported that a conference had been held, and a definite answer was to be given prior to the present meeting.

Mr. Ald. PEARSON, on the part of the Churchwardens and Overseers, communicated the consent of that body to the proposal, on condition that an indemnity should be given under the borough seal.

The condition was acceded to, and the proposed consolidation confirmed, after considerable discussion.

Mr. HODGSON then moved that Mr. Fairs be nominated the collector of watch and borough rate, to be appointed by the Churchwardens and Overseers.

Mr. Ald. PEARSON seconded the motion, and it was carried.

The amount of poundage was next considered; and it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. COOK, seconded by Mr. Ald. PEARSON, that 4d. be paid on the borough rate and 6d. on the watch rate.

The Parliamentary, Railway, and Byelaw Committee made a report, relating to hackney coaches, anti-centralization, and the Tyne harbour of refuge.

The hackney-coach regulations were discussed at great length, and agreed to with amendments.

Abstract of Fares, &c.	Cab.	Coach.
Not exceeding a mile, one or two passengers	1s. 0d.	1s. 0d.
Exceeding a mile, per mile for the whole distance	0s. 9d.	1s. 0d.
Additional passengers, up to three miles, each	0s. 6d.	0s. 6d.
Above three miles, for each additional passenger, one-third fare more: for two, half-fare more.		
For every detention exceeding a quarter of an hour	0s. 6d.	0s. 6d.

From midnight to 8 in winter, and to 6 in summer, one-half the ordinary fare additional; and for returning, one-half the increased fare.

Carriage may be detained, and used for return at half-fare, without additional charge for detention, where the hire of a coach shall amount to 2s. or more, or a cab to 1s. 6d. or more, and the detention does not exceed a quarter of an hour; where the hire of a coach shall amount to 3s. or more, or a cab to 2s. or more, and the detention does not exceed half an hour; and where the hire of a coach shall amount to 4s. or upwards, or a cab to 3s. or upwards, and the detention does not exceed an hour.

A person calling a carriage, and not further employing it, to pay the fare from the stand or place whence it may be brought.

Fares beyond five miles to be the subject of special agreement. Four passengers to be the maximum number. Allowance of luggage for a fare, 100lb.

Children in the lap not to be counted; nor any child under 12, unless there be more than one, and then two to be counted as one passenger.

The charge for *time* to be, for a coach, 18s per day of twelve hours; 2s. per hour for the first hour; and 1s. 6d., for every subsequent hour. For a cab, 12s., 1s. 6d., and 1s. respectively.

The proprietor to have the option of charging by time or distance.

The hackney stands to be three, viz.:—North side of Hills street for six coaches or cabs; High-street, opposit Nuns-lane, for two; and Windmill Hills, near Romulus terrace, for two.

No resolution was found on the report relating to the proposed "Anti-Centralization Union."

On the subject of the Tyne harbour of refuge, an able letter from Mr. Mather, addressed to the Town Clerk, was read; and it was resolved that the Mayor, Mr. Hodgson, and Mr. Skelton, with Mr. Kell, be a sub-committee to petition parliament and memorialize the government for public aid to this public work.

The report, subject to resolutions adopted thereon, was confirmed.

Mr. Ald. ROBSON presented a report from the Public Health Committee; but it was now past 5 o'clock, and the report was ordered to stand over to the 8th inst.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.

THE annual meeting was held on Friday, Feb. 10, at the Townhall, (JAMES POLLOCK, Esq., in the Chair). The Rector and several other gentlemen were present.

The SECRETARY (WILLIAM KELL, Esq.) read the report of the Committee, which opened with a refer-

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ence to a passage in the report of 1853, "calling attention to the increase of febrile affections in those localities which, if not the parents of disease, are its continual home," and "invoking the support of the governors in aid of every effort which might be made by the local authorities for their sanitary improvement."

"The year in which that report was made," the Committee continued, "was destined to give a solemn emphasis to the exhortation. The malady which gave birth to the institution in 1832 reappeared amongst us in the autumn of 1853, and swept out of existence upwards of four hundred of our population. Commencing its ravages in an unclean and overcrowded district, it soon affected all parts of the town, more or less; and your Committee are confirmed in their conviction, by this third visitation of Asiatic cholera, that whatever may be its primary causes, it would never assume the form of a wide-wasting epidemic, were it not for overcrowding, closeness, and filth, and the demoralization by which these evils are too often accompanied. Your Committee would therefore repeat the admonition to promote with zeal the necessary measures for securing the cleanliness and health of the town, and the banishment of every preventible cause of disease and premature death.

"This charity has peculiar reason to lament the neglect of sanitary precautions. A second time has the Gateshead Dispensary been deprived of its House Surgeon by the infectious fever of continuously-diseased localities. That office is once more vacant by the death of Mr. Charles Brown, who, worn down by his incessant attention to the sick during the late epidemic, fell an easy victim to febrile disease contracted in his attendance on the suffering poor. The loss of this amiable and assiduous officer, whose services the institution might otherwise have retained with advantage for many years to come, imposes upon you the duty of appointing a successor.

"Your Committee, while Mr. Brown was lying ill, were fortunate in procuring the temporary services of Mr. Rowland, late a pupil in the Newcastle Infirmary, whom they engaged for a period of three months, and with a stipulation for a notice of one month before he could retire from the office. It is due to Mr. Rowland to say that he has discharged his onerous duties to the entire satisfaction of your Committee. It will be for the governors to determine what steps shall be taken with a view to the permanent appointment of a House Surgeon."

The report announced the resignation of the office of Treasurer by Mr. John Greene, owing to the pressure of other engagements. The cost of medicines during the year of the epidemic was stated to have been £44 2s. 10d. in excess of that of 1852. £25 had been received from the Gateshead Guardians on this account, at a time when the Committee under-estimated the extraordinary outlay; and as the receipts of the year fell short of the expenditure, an appeal was now made to the liberality of the public. The number of ordinary cases relieved was about the same as in the previous year.

Mr. JOHN KIMPSTER moved the adoption of the report; and the motion having been seconded, it was unanimously carried.

Thanks were voted to Mr. Greene, on the motion of Mr. JOHN BARRAS; and he was appointed to a vacancy in the list of Vice-Presidents.

Mr. Joseph Abbot Hymers was elected as his successor in the office of Treasurer.

Mr. KELL moved a vote of thanks to the medical officers of the charity. Seconded by Mr. RALPH WAKE, and adopted. Thanks were also voted to the Committee of the past year, and to the Secretary.

The vacancy in the office of House Surgeon having come under consideration, Mr. BARRAS proposed that it should be left to the Committee to take such steps as they might hereafter think necessary on the subject.—Agreed to.

As to a new building, Mr. KELL stated that no answer had ever been received to the letter of December last, addressed to the Bishop's agent; and the Building Subcommittee were now looking out for some other site.

The following governors were appointed to be the Committee of the year:—Messrs. T. C. Angus, S. A. Cail, James Clephan, Charles Dunn, A. G. Gray, R. W. Hodgson, F. P. Ionn, John Kimpster, Samuel Neville, John Potts, John Vickers, and Joshua Watson.

Thanks were voted to the Chairman, and the proceedings closed. Several of the governors subsequently dined at Miss Murray's, the Half-Moon inn, (Mr. Garbutt in the chair, and Mr. Ald. Smith vice).

☞ We are requested to state, that the Treasurer of the Gateshead Ratepayers' Protection Society has paid over to the Treasurer of the Gateshead Dispensary the sum of £1 0s. 11d., being the balance of funds in hand on the dissolution of the society.

THE GATESHEAD TOWN COUNCIL.

MAYOR.	COUNCILLORS.	†Hewitt, James
†Haggie, David	†Allhusen, Chris.	†Hodgson, R. W.
ALDERMEN.	†Brinton, George	Hunter, George
†Cummins, T.	Cook, William	†Hymers, J. A.
Hawks, George	Crawshay, E.	†Ionn, F. P.
†Lister, John	†Douglas, William	†Patterson, G.
Pearson, C. J.	Garbutt, C.	†Skelton, John
†Robson, Joseph	†Gray, Alex. Geo.	†Vickers, John
†Smith, James	Haggie, Peter	†Wilson, James

☞ Those marked (†) were present.

TOWNHALL, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6.—The Council met by adjournment, principally to receive and consider the report of the Public Health Committee, presented by the Chairman, Mr. Alderman Robson, of which we give a digest:—

The Gas Company, on remonstrance, ascribed the insufficiency of the public lamps chiefly to the intense frosts. Amendment was promised, but cause of complaint still existed Many districts were too late in being lighted; but as soon as the new streets behind Trinity chapel were in readiness for lighting, an additional lamplighter was to be employed.

The General Board of Health had promised attention to the suggestions of the Council as to amendments in the Public Health Act.

The Committee had received a report from the Surveyor, estimating that, if the domestic refuse of the footway paving district were removed by the Local Board, the result would be a saving to the householders of nearly £400 a-year. Complaints had been made of unwholesome dwellings, requiring cleansing and whitewashing; but the Board could only interfere on a medical certificate. His plan of the eastern part of the borough had been presented to the Committee, with the sewers laid down on a system which, after careful consideration, he considered to be the best and most economical. The main line commenced a short distance south of Park-lane, and proceeded north, down East-street, to Oakwellgate-lane, until it arrived at the highway between Mr. Easton's tramway and Messrs. Hawks's works, along which it passed in a northerly direction, and discharged itself near the ferry-stairs. This (he said) might be termed the main sewer of the eastern district; and its capacity and line of route had been so laid out as to accommodate the increase of the town now taking place east of High-street and south of Park-lane. An outlet sewer started at the top of (and ran north along) Oakwellgate, until it reached a sewer already constructed, which had its outlet near the the staiths belonging to the York, Newcastle, and Berwick Railway Company. Those two outlet sewers had been laid out with due reference to the areas they would drain. All the other sewers might be termed "secondary." The gulley grates would all be trapped; the sewers would be

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so laid out as to drain the lowest cellars; and ventilating pipes would carry the gases high above the habitations of the district. There would be in the East-street main sewer, with its secondary sewers, 4,440 lineal yards of public sewerage, the estimated cost (including the junctions of private drains) being £2,125. The Oakwellgate main sewer, with its secondary branches, extended to about 1,297 yards, which would cost £420. Total, £2,545. This sum, borrowed at 4 per cent., and to be repaid by thirty annual instalments, would involve a charge of £147 13s 3d. per year; or, taking the number of houses in the district at one uniform rate, about five farthings per house per week, or about 4½d. per pound in the year. In connection with this subject, the Surveyor recommended that a public watercloset be erected at the head of Oakwellgate. Also, that the premises at the east end of Leonard's-court, fronting East-street, be purchased by the Board for removal, that an open communication might be established through the court from East-street to High-street. The cost of the purchase and of the erection of the watercloset would be about £260.

The Committee recommended the adoption of the Surveyor's scheme for the removal of the contents of all ashpits, &c., in the paved footway district, at the cost of the district.

Also, that he have authority to apply to two medical practitioners (the medical officer being one) for their certificate, and take all necessary proceedings to compel, under section 60 of the Public Health Act, the whitewashing and cleansing of such houses as may require it.

The Committee, in submitting the Surveyor's plans of a systematic drainage of the district east of High-street, recommended that the subject should be deferred until he had estimated the cost of diverting the proposed main sewer along Oakwellgate, instead of having another sewer for that district.

The Committee recommended the Surveyor's suggestion of a public watercloset at the head of Oakwellgate, in the open area communicating with Easton-street; and also that, in conformity with his report, part of the property in Leonard's-court be purchased, and a communication be opened, through the court, between High-street and East-street.

Several of the inhabitants of Churchwalk had complained of an accumulation of filth on the west side of Stringer's-buildings, and drawn attention to the contemplated erection of a wall on the east side of those buildings, which, they said, would obstruct the admission of light and air to the adjoining property, and so endanger the health of the occupiers. The filth, the Committee stated, had been removed—the only subject of the letter coming under their control.

The Committee recommended the payment of various accounts.

The collector's accounts of the rates made by the Local Board for 1853 had been audited by Councillors Hewitt, Hodgson, Patterson, and Skelton.

Total amount of the rates.....		£4356 18	2½
Lost by composition ...£300 10 0			
" by empty property 276 9 4½			
" by poverty..... 22 6 6			
" by arrears..... 79 9 7½			
	678 15 6		
Collected.....	£3678 2 8½		
Poundage due the collector	91 19 1		
Net	£3586 3 7½		

The report having been received, its clauses were discussed *seriatim*.

The ashpit proposal of the Surveyor, first made at the previous meeting, was very generally approved. The Mayor, Mr. Ald. Robson, and Mr. Hodgson spoke in its favour. The last-named gentleman observed, that if such a system had been in operation before the late epidemic, the outbreak would not have found the town in so foul a state. He moved its adoption. Mr. Hymers and Mr. Skelton, and, we believe, one or two others, instantly seconded the motion. Mr. Brinton said, upwards of 400 cartloads of filth were removed by the authorities after the cholera broke out, (besides what was removed by farmers). Mr. Ald. Lister called attention to a disgraceful nuisance at the intersection of Pipewellgate by the High Level Bridge. Mr. Hymers said, if some such plan as Mr. Hall's were not adopted, the town would soon be choked up altogether.—The motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. Hewitt pointed attention to Nelson-street (sometimes nearly knee-deep in dirt), and other streets not yet public; and it was ordered that this matter, also, be taken in hand by the Public Health Committee and the Surveyor.

At this stage of the proceedings, a labourer named Harrison, in the service of Hood & Co., was admitted, on the motion of Mr. Hymers, seconded by Mr. Ionn, and stated to the Council that he lived in Hillgate, adjoining Mr. Wilson's skinnery, which was an intolerable nuisance. Being asked why he did not remove, he said that he had lived there ten years; wished to remain there; and thought the nuisance, which was of recent origin, should be removed. After a conversational discussion, the Town Clerk, being referred to, decided that, the meeting of the 1st inst. having been adjourned for a special purpose, nothing could now be done, regularly, as to this question; so the consideration of the report was resumed.

The plans for the sewerage of the eastern district gave rise to a long discussion, chiefly turning upon the questions whether the main sewer should be carried to the Tyne from East-street, as the Surveyor proposed, through a sparsely inhabited locality, which could contribute little or no district rate, or should be brought into and along Oakwellgate, thereby spreading the cost over a more populous area. Mr. Hewitt, reluctantly opposing Mr. Hall's plan, and delaying the execution of the work, felt constrained to move:—"That it be an instruction to the Surveyor, in the drainage of the eastern district, to carry his works through the most populous parts thereof:—that the proposed outlet, by way of Messrs. Hawks's, is adding largely to the expense of the works, without an adequate advantage, owing to the almost total absence of inhabited dwellings on its route."—Mr. Ald. Lister seconded the motion.—Mr. Allhusen said, if Gateshead were to be drained as it should be, a systematic plan, as proposed by the Surveyor, must be carried out. (Hear, hear.)—Mr. Hodgson moved that Mr. Hall's proposals be confirmed. Mr. Allhusen seconded the amendment. Mr. Ald. Smith reminded the Council that no money could be borrowed until the plans had been approved at head-quarters. The meeting went to a division on the amendment:—

For the Amendment, 6.—Aldermen Robson and Smith; and Councillors Hodgson, Vickers, Allhusen, and Douglas.

Against it, 9.—The Mayor; Aldermen Cummins and Lister; and Councillors Hewitt, Brinton, Ionn, Skelton, Hymers, and Wilson.

Neutral.—Councillors Gray and Patterson.

The amendment having been negatived, the Council divided on the original motion, when one of the neutrals (Mr. Gray) voted with the nine, and the numbers then were:—

For the motion.....	10
Against it	6
Majority for the motion.....	4

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Mr. Ald. Robson moved that the report of the Committee, except so far as affected by this division, be confirmed; and the motion having been seconded by Mr. Brinton, it was adopted.

The meeting was adjourned to the 8th of March.

Gateshead Mechanics' Institute.—The February meeting was held on Thursday, Feb. 9, when several new members were elected and new books ordered. A petition to the House of Commons was adopted, praying that the proposal to distribute parliamentary papers among Mechanics' Institutes may speedily be carried out, and that the distribution may be *free*. We find that we were mistaken when we stated, last week, that Mr. Hutt was reappointed to the Committee on Parliamentary Papers. That Committee finally concluded its inquiry last session. The Committee to which the honourable member is now appointed is charged with the duty of distributing parliamentary papers to Mechanics' Institutes and other literary and educational establishments. The Committee consists of Mr. Tufnell, Mr. Hutt, Mr. Ewart, Colonel Muir, Mr. Hamilton, and Mr. Wilson (Secretary to the Treasury).

Gateshead Soup Kitchen.—Mr. N. Morris, of Washington, has made a donation of 10s. 6d. The kitchen will not be open after Feb. 11. It has been in operation from the 6th of January, during which time upwards of 13,450 quarts of soup have been distributed to the necessitous poor. The Committee thankfully acknowledge the handsome amount of pecuniary subscriptions received, as well as the liberal gift of coals from Messrs. Easton's Oakwellgate Colliery. They would also, seeing that the kitchen is in a dilapidated condition, respectfully urge upon the town council the propriety of adapting part of the building now in progress for the Baths and Washhouses to so desirable an object, by which the expenses of the kitchen would be somewhat lessened. In conclusion, the Committee would impress upon the friends of the charity, when it shall again be opened, the necessity of their giving *personal* attendance occasionally, in order that the responsibility may not rest solely on a few.

The Weather.—We have had fine open weather; and on February 9, under favourable auspices, there were two friendly "ploughings" in our parish—one on the Backfield farm, where Messrs. Stoker are succeeding Mr. Alderman Robson as tenants. Yesterday, however, Winter "put in an appearance" at early morning, and at breakfast-time the earth was powdered "like a good old English gentleman."

Sudden Death.—Mr. and Mrs. Jobling, of the Turk's Head, Spicer-lane, Newcastle, visited his aunt, Mrs. Jobling, of Darlington, on Sunday Feb. 5. Mrs. Jobling, jun., felt unwell while there, and was obliged to lie down; but at night, when leaving by train, she was apparently much better; and on the road home she was cheerful. At Gateshead, however, where they alighted from the train, she was so ill that she could scarcely stand; and, unfortunately, there was no cab to be got. Making an effort to walk home with her husband's assistance, her remaining strength failed her at the foot of Bottle-bank; and Mr. Jobling, carrying her into Mr. Paley's, procured her some brandy and water. He then ran off in search of a cab, while the servant went for medical aid. Mr. Wilson arrived just in time to see her die, and when her husband returned she was dead. An inquest having been held, a verdict was returned of "Natural Death."

Sir George Grey, Sir R. Ferguson, and Messrs. Walpole, Patten, Palmer (Robert), and Bramston, have been appointed by the Speaker to be the General Committee of Elections.

Patent Ramoneur Machine for Cleaning Chimneys.—This ingenious machine was on February 8th brought under the notice of the Gateshead Council, at the Townhall, by Mr. Crow, an agent of the patentee, who exhibited a neat working model. The Council expressed their approbation of the humane object of the machine; and Mr. Crow stated that the Marquis of Westminster and Lord Henley, who never spoke lightly, were so convinced of its practical merits that they described it as the salvation of the law prohibiting the use of climbing boys. It is said to be in successful operation in several places; and we feel it to be our duty to enlist in its favourable regard all who are interested in ameliorating the condition of the poor "sweep boy." This locality, we understand, is not only the one where the law is least observed, but is actually a nursery whence distant districts draw their supplies of juvenile sweeps. The general adoption of the *ramoneur*, which can sweep round any legal angle, would raise the chimney-sweep to a level with other artisans. He would be enabled to show his face amongst us, now hidden "under a cloud," and "something more." At present, he is shut out from the "moustache movement;" for why should he cultivate an appendage which would not be seen? Sweeps, then, and householders, should alike encourage the *ramoneur;* and we shall be glad to hear that Mr. Crow, during his stay in this district, meets with the encouragement which his object deserves.

The English and the Russians.—Some few years ago, a public meeting was held in Oakwellgate, Gateshead, in our then townhall, at which the Chartists played the obstructive game at that time in vogue. It was contended that Englishmen were "slaves;" that they had nothing worth fighting for; and that it could not be expected they should defend their country against invasion. Mr. George Straker said, he was quite sure that if the Russians were to attempt a hostile landing at Tynemouth, they would be driven back into the sea. The Chartists denied the assumption, and asserted that the invaders would rather be welcomed on shore. Mr. Straker told them he knew better—they would themselves resist the enemy. They protested they would not. Thumping the table with his fist, our sturdy townsman rapped out a round expletive, and declared that, if news were brought them of a landing, he knew he could not hold a single man of them back.—Well! time has rolled on; war is imminent; and what do we now behold? Democratic journals placard our walls with broadside demands on popular favour; and do they conciliate the populace by apologies for the Czar, and attacks on the Government for resisting his encroachments? No! nothing of the kind! They denounce the "Despot," and charge the Cabinet with being too slow in going to war with him! He threatens our shores; everywhere—in England, Scotland, and Ireland—our fishermen and pilots are cheerfully volunteering for the national defence; and our whole people are patriotically justifying the prediction of Mr. George Straker.

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GATESHEAD POOR LAW UNION.

BOARD ROOM TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7. — Present—The Chairman and Vice-Chairman; G. H. Ramsay, Esq., J.P.; and Messrs. Robson, Brinton, Fawcett, Monro, Cook, Makepeace, Murray, Clark (William), and Crawshay.

Mr. COOK read the minutes, &c.

Eleven couples, it appeared, were candidates for matrimony—four of the brides being in their teens.

Cheques were issued amounting to £348 10s. 6d. The Treasurer had a balance in hand of £782 6s. Gateshead was £600 in arrear of call (but £300 had been paid in, that morning); Heworth, £115; Stella, £25; Whickham, £325; Winlaton, £151 10s. An account was laid before the Board from which it appeared that, up to Monday night, Gateshead and Whickham were the only parishes indebted to the union; but the payment of Tuesday morning made Gateshead creditor.

During the past fortnight, £306 8s. 7½d. had been expended in out-door relief: 2,618 being recipients in the first week, and 2,359 in the second. There were 174 persons in the workhouse at the commencement of the fortnight, and 173 at its close, comprising not one able-bodied man.

Mr. COOK read a petition to parliament which, in conformity with instructions, he had prepared, praying that the bill under which the Poor Law Board in London exists be not renewed.

Mr. MAKEPEACE moved its adoption.

Mr. BRINTON seconded the motion.

Mr. FAWCETT moved that it be referred to a sub-committee for revision.

Mr WILKINSON seconded the amendment. The prayer of the petition had his warm approval, but he thought it might have more weight if the language were modified.

Mr. CRAWSHAY and Mr ROBSON supported the amendment, which was carried by 6 to 3. Committee appointed :—The Chairman and Vice Chairman, and Messrs. Cook, Makepeace, Fawcett, and Brinton.

Some routine business was transacted ; there was a short "scene," and the Board proceeded to the relie of the poor.

GATESHEAD POOR LAW UNION.

BOARD ROOM, FEB. 21.—Present :—The Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Messrs. Robson, Brinton, Cook, and Makepeace.

Cheques were issued to the amount of £491 5s. 3d. The Treasurer had £1,293 in hand, subject to the payment of these cheques, leaving a surplus of about £800. Winlaton was stated to be £107 10s. in arrear of call, and Whickham £280; but the latter had paid in £20 since the account was made up.

The returns on the table showed that in the first fortnight there had received outdoor relief—during the first week 2,313, and in the second 2,361—at a total cost of £274 3s. 7d. There were 173 inmates in the workhouse at the commencement of the fortnight, and 171 at its close.

Mr. COOK, as Clerk, read a letter from Mr. Robert Davis, of Wrekenton, medical officer, recalling attention to his account for services during the epidemic; correcting statements to his prejudice which were reported to have been made in the Board Room; and pledging himself, if an opportunity were afforded him, to make good his claim before the Committee. Mr. WILKINSON moved that Mr. Davis's bill be discharged. It was objected that no such motion could be made without notice. He then moved that the bill be referred to the Committee. It was objected that the Committee had ceased to exist. Mr. COOK moved, that the letter be simply received. Mr. MAKEPEACE seconded the motion. Carried on a show of hands. It was asked if proceedings at law had been commenced by any medical man for recovery of his bill, but no one seemed to know that any such step had been taken.

Mr. COOK read a letter from the Poor Law Board, enclosing a communication from Mr. Atlee, late of the Gateshead Dispensary, and requesting the observations of the Guardians thereon. It was in the nature of an appeal from the decision of the Guardians on his claim to remuneration for extraordinary services during the epidemic of 1853. On the motion of Mr. Ald. ROBSON, seconded by Mr. WILKINSON, the Clerk was instructed to reply that the Guardians had satisfied all the claims made upon them by the Committee of the Dispensary in connection with the epidemic.

The petition for the abolition of the Poor Law Board, as revised by the Committee appointed on the 7th inst., was read by Mr. COOK, and approved. It prayed that the administration of the law might be left in the hands of Boards of Guardians, subject to such appeal as the legislature might think fit. On the motion of Mr. BRINTON, seconded by Mr. MAKEPEACE, it was resolved that the petition be adopted, and that it be transmitted to Mr. Hutt for presentation, with a request to support its prayer.

Some other business was transacted, and the Board proceeded to the relief of the poor.

GATESHEAD SOUP KITCHEN. — The accounts of the Treasurer (Mr. J. A. Hymers), which are open to inspection at his office, show the receipts and disbursements of the season of 1854, extending from the 6th of January to the 11th of February, to have been as under :—

By subscriptions		£96	5 6
By cash for soup		31	13 2
By cash for bones		0	18 0
Total receipts		£128	16 8
To beef	£48 7 6		
To peas and barley	37 5 0		
To seasoning	2 14 0		
To printing, advertising, &c	4 0 6		
To wages	7 18 0		
To sundries	1 7 6		
Total expenses		101	12 6
Balance		£27	4 2

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY BALL. — On Feb. 23, at the Assembly Rooms, Newcastle, the usual annual ball for the above charity was held. This meeting has long been proverbially pleasant; but on this last occasion it was pronounced to be the very best and most delightful of all the Dispensary Balls. "An efficient secretary and corps of stewards having been secured," we last week said, "we may calculate upon good arrangements and a pleasant meeting;" and the result has fully borne out our anticipations. It was gratifying to observe, that as many ladies and gentlemen were present as there are days in leap year; and notwithstanding the expenses of the large room are heavy, we trust that a good balance will be handed over to the Treasurer of our excellent and most useful

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institution. The ball was led off by Mrs. Mayoress and George Hawks, Esq., Mrs. Joseph Abbot Hymers and His Worship the Mayor (David Haggie, Esq.) The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Newcastle (Ralph Dodds, Esq.) and Mrs. Mayoress, the Officers of the Garrison, and other distinguished personages, were of the company. Mr. M. Liddell and his excellent band put mettle in every heel.

FREEMASONRY IN GATESHEAD.—On Feb. 20, the annual meeting of the Borough Lodge, No. 614, was held at the Black Bull inn, Gateshead, when the following officers were installed for the ensuing year:—Brothers John Hopper, W.M.; George Heppell, P.M.; J. Halloway, S.W.; W. E. Franklin, J.W.; W. Johnson, Treasurer; S. Joel, Secretary; P. Brown, S.D.; W. Morgan, J.D.; J. Lillywhite, S.S.; R. Fell, J.S.; T. Hornsby, I.G.; A. Dickson, Tyler. The brethren afterwards dined together, in number about forty, and the Black Bull sustained its culinary credit.

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

ELECTION OF ASSESSORS.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Burgesses enrolled in the several Wards within the said Borough, will, on Wednesday, the First day of March next, openly assemble in their respective Wards, and elect from the persons qualified to be Councillors TWO ASSESSORS for each such Ward.

The Election of each Ward will be held before the Alderman and present Assessor thereof, at the places undermentioned, which have been appointed for the purpose, and such Election will commence at Nine o'clock in the morning, and will finally close at Four of the clock in the afternoon of the same day; but the Presiding Officer is authorized to close the Poll at any time before Four o'clock, if one hour shall have elapsed during which no votes shall have been tendered for any Candidate.

FOR THE EAST WARD.—The Police Court Room, in the Town Hall.

FOR THE WEST WARD.—The Treasurer's Office, adjoining the Town Hall.

FOR THE SOUTH WARD.—The National School, in Kell's Lane, on Gateshead Fell.

No Burgess can vote for more than one Assessor fo his Ward; and no Burgess is eligible to be elected an Assessor who shall be of the Council, or the Town Clerk, or the Treasurer of the Borough.

WILLIAM KELL, Town Clerk.

Townhall, Gateshead, February 24, 1854.

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

ELECTION OF AUDITORS.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Burgessess of the said Borough will assemble in the Townhall, in the said Borough, on Wednesday, the First day of March next, and elect from the persons qualified to be Councillors TWO AUDITORS for the whole Borough, and that the voting will commence at Nine o'clock in the morning, and will finally close at Four o'clock in the afternoon of the same day; but the Presiding Officer is authorized to close the Poll at any time before Four o'clock, if one hour shall have elapsed during which no vote shall have been tendered for any Candidate.

No Burgess can vote for more than one Auditor; and no Burgess is eligible to be elected an Auditor who shall be of the Council, or the Town Clerk, or the Treasurer of the Borough.

WILLIAM KELL, Town Clerk.

Townhall, Gateshead, February 24, 1854.

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

ELECTION OF ASSESSORS FOR REVISING THE BURGESS LISTS WITH THE MAYOR.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Burgesses of the said Borough will assemble at the Townhall of the said Borough, on Wednesday, the First day of March next, and elect from the persons qualified to be Councillors TWO ASSESSORS for the whole Borough, to Revise the Burgess Lists with the Mayor, and that the voting will commence at Nine o'clock in the morning, and will finally close at Four o'clock in the afternoon of the same day; but the Presiding Officer is authorized to close the Poll at any time before Four o'clock, if one hour shall have elapsed during which no vote shall have been tendered for any Candidate.

No Burgess can vote for more than one person to be an Assessor; and no Burgess is eligible to be elected an Assessor who shall be of the Council, or the Town Clerk, or the Treasurer of the Borough.

WILLIAM KELL, Town Clerk.

Townhall, Gateshead, February 24, 1854.

TO CAPITALISTS, MEMBERS OF BUILDING SOCIETIES AND OTHERS.

IMPORTANT SALE OF VALUABLE FREEHOLD AND LEASEHOLD LAND AND HOUSES.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, at Miss Murray's, Half Moon Inn, Gateshead, on Monday, the 6th of March, 1854, at 6 for 7 o'clock in the evening,

MR. NEILSON, AUCTIONEER.

LOT 1.—All that Freehold DWELLING HOUSE, of 5 rooms, with yard and outbuildings, together with a stable, byer, and two dwelling-rooms behind the same, let to Mr. F. Glenton, and in the sub-occupation of Mr. Freeman, situate at Low Bensham, near Saltwell-lane, Gateshead.

LOT 2.—All that Freehold FIELD, adjoining lot 1, containing 3 acres or thereabouts, also let to Mr. F. Glenton. There is a superior seam of clay in this field, which can be worked at a small cost, and the situation of it is well adapted for building sites, or a market garden. Mr. Freeman will shew lots 1 and 2.

LOT 3.—All that Leasehold GROUND, containing — yards, or thereabouts, situate in the Split Crow-lane, just through the Gateshead Toll Gate, Old Durham Road. This ground is well laid out for building sites, and houses are in great request in this neighbourhood.

LOT 4.—Are Two COTTAGES and a GARDEN, One COTTAGE and a HOUSE, of four rooms, all on the east corner of lot 3. The tenants will show lots 3 and 4.

LOT 5.—All those Two valuable Freehold FIELDS, containing — acres, more or less, called the Jaw Blades Fields, near the Gateshead Fell Rectory, on the Old Durham Road, in the tenantcy of B. Bigger, Esq., being closely contiguous to the manufacturing village of Carr's Hill. This land lies most advantageously for the erection of glass, pottery, or other manufactories.

LOT 6.—Two COTTAGES, on the west side of lot 5, and fronting the Old Durham Road, in the occupation of Mr. Storey and another. Rent £12 per annum.

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THE GATESHEAD TOWN-COUNCIL.

MAYOR.	COUNCILLORS	
†Haggie, David	Allhusen, Chris.	†Hewitt, James
ALDERMEN.	†Brinton, George	†Hodgson, R. W.
†Cummins, T.	†Cook, William	Hunter, George
Hawks, George	†Crawshay, R.	†Hymers, J. A.
†Lister, John	†Douglas, William	†Ionn, F. P.
Pearson, C. J.	Garbutt, C.	†Patterson, G.
†Robson, Joseph	†Gray, Alex. Geo.	†Skelton, John
†Smith, James	Haggie, Peter	†Vickers, John
		Wilson, James

☞ Those marked (†) were present.

On Friday, March 17, a special meeting of the Council and Local Board of Health was held at the Townhall, "to consider and determine the measures to be adopted relative to a notice received of an intended application to the Court of Queen's Bench for the removal of the order of Council, made on the 8th instant, for the payment of £119 16s. 4d., for Messrs. Griffith & Crighton's disbursements as the attorneys of the Corporation, in the defence of the action at the suit of Mr. Septimus Anthony Cail, in order that its validity may be tested."

The Mayor having stated that he had convened the meeting, and explained its object,

The Town Clerk read the following letter, headed "Cail v. Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Gateshead."

Newcastle, 9th March, 1854.

Dear Sir,—We understand that, at a meeting of the Council and Local Board of Health for the borough of Gateshead, held yesterday, an order was made that the Treasurer should pay out of the general district rate the sum of £119 16s. 4d. to Messrs. Griffith & Crighton for their disbursements as the attorneys of the Corporation in the defence of the above action. As the attorneys for Mr. Septimus A. Cail, one of the ratepayers of the borough and the plaintiff in the action, we give you notice, that an application will be forthwith made to the Court of Queen's Bench for a *certiorari* to remove such order, in order that its validity may be tested. Our client is determined that the above sum shall not be paid out of the borough rates, but by those gentlemen who improperly incurred them.

Yours truly,

Ingledew & Daggett.

William Kell, Esq., Town Clerk.

We understood the Town Clerk to say, in reply to Mr. Hodgson, that the order of the 8th inst., for payment of the money, was legally made, assuming the payment to be valid. He believed the Treasurer had not yet paid the money.

Mr. Hodgson said, he should like to hear whether the Treasurer was the servant of the Corporation or of Messrs. Ingledew & Daggett?

The Town Clerk stated that he had another letter to read, which would perhaps shorten the business of the meeting.

Dean-street, March 17, 1854.

Dear Sir,—We beg to give you notice that our client does not intend to oppose the payment of the defendants' costs out of the borough rates any further, and we are instructed to withdraw the notice sent you on the 9th inst. We now do so accordingly. Yours truly,

Ingledew & Daggett.

William Kell, Esq., Town Clerk.

Cries of "Oh!" followed the reading of this letter—which, the Town Clerk stated in reply to Mr. Skelton, he had received that morning after 11 o'clock. Mr. Hodgson said it was of a piece with much of the whole proceedings. It was neither proper nor decent to render the present meeting necessary, and then send such a letter as this.

Mr. Skelton concurred with Mr. Hodgson that Messrs. Ingledew & Daggett should better have considered what they were about, before giving a notice which they were obliged to withdraw; and made some remarks on the conduct of the Town Clerk, and on his evidence at the assizes, as reported in the *Observer*. It was not becoming, he said, that Mr. Kell should have volunteered evidence against the Corporation.

Mr. Hall, the Town Surveyor, being called upon to explain his conduct, and, in particular, being asked by Mr. Ald. Cummins to state how he happened to go to the staking-out of the site at the end of Catherine-terrace, entered into the origin of the matter, and read passages from his report to the Council, giving details which have appeared in our journal from time to time, and which we have not room to recapitulate.

Mr. Hymers said, it was quite clear that the Council were justified in what they had done. They had acted as protectors of the public rights; they were most reluctant that law proceedings should take place; and, much as those proceeding were to be regretted, he thought it was in bad taste to give the notice which had been withdrawn.

The Council resolved, on the motion of Mr. Hodgson, seconded by Mr. Skelton, that a messenger be sent to the Treasurer, requesting his attendance, that they might know if he had carried out the order of the Council; and if not, why?

Meanwhile, the Town Clerk, at the request of the Mayor, read section 140 of the Public Health Act:—

"That no matter or thing done, or contract entered into, by the Local Board of Health, nor any matter or thing done by any superintending inspector, or any member of the said Local Board, or by the officer of health, clerk, surveyor, inspector of nuisances, or other officer or person whomsoever, acting under the direction of the said Local Board, shall, if the matter or thing were done, or the contract were entered into, *bona fide*, for the purpose of executing this act, subject them, or any of them, personally, to any action, liability, claim, or demand whatsoever; and any expense incurred by such Local Board, member, officer of health, clerk, surveyor, inspector of nuisances, or other officer or person act ng as last aforesaid, shall be borne and repaid out of the general district rates levied under the authority of this act."

The Mayor: That settles the question, I should think.

Mr. Hodgson: So I thought, but I knew not what quirk there might be concealed to us, but apparent to those who gave the notice.

Mr. Hewitt wished to know—for the information had not yet been given—how Mr. Hall came to be present at the staking-out of the ground. How came it, too, that that circumstance was not made known to them until after the wall was built, and they were involved in the late proceedings? Their own servants seemed to be most hostile to them. Surely they should be for, and not against the Council. The Council should have known the circumstances of the staking-out, before they were committed to proceedings involving a cost to the public of four or five hundred pounds. (A Voice: Six.)

Here, Mr. Pearse having entered the room, the Mayor put some questions, and his replies amounted to this:—He had received the order, but had not paid the money. He had refrained because of the notice. He got, first, Messrs. Ingledew & Daggett's notice, addressed to himself; and afterwards, Mr. Longstaffe, of the Town Clerk's office, delivered to him a second notice (a copy of the one sent to Mr. Kell). He called upon the Town Clerk, who gave him no advice, either one way or other; and, thinking that he

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had better not run the risk of paying the money until the Council knew of the notice, he kept it in hand.

The TOWN CLERK stated, that on the receipt of the notice which he had read, he had thought it advisable to send a copy to the Mayor and the Treasurer.

Mr. PEARSE said, in reply to inquiries why he had neglected to obey the order of the Council, he thought most of the gentlemen present would have done the same, under the circumstances.

It was remarked that any person might take a fancy to write to the Treasurer, prohibiting obedience to an order; and surely the business of the Corporation must not stand still, to please any body's freak. Mr. COOK suggested, that, for aught they knew, the notice, and its withdrawal, might be all a hoax. (Laughter.)

The TOWN CLERK was asked if an order of the Council was not the Treasurer's sufficient warrant, whatever might ensue; and we understood him to reply, that if, before making payment, he should receive such a notice as the one now under consideration, and the order should prove to be illegal, the responsibility might fall upon himself.

Mr. A. G. GRAY, with all deference to the TOWN CLERK, demurred. Such a notice, he thought, would have no such effect. If a *mandamus* were served upon the Treasure, then he would make the payment at his peril. Mr. G. added, that the Council were quite justified in the course which they had pursued, and were, he should say, perfectly regular. The Town Clerk had advised them at the outset that it was competent to them to employ other solicitors than himself, and had, with his own hand, sealed the retainer. It was regretted, seeing how the case had turned, that any law proceedings should have taken place; but there could be no question of the regularity or the *bona fides* of the conduct of the Council. The Treasurer, he said, had acted, no doubt, from proper motives, though with too much caution. He thought the Town Clerk should have told him to pay the money.

The MAYOR said, the Town Clerk was hardly likely to advise the Treasurer; for when he (the Mayor) received the notice, and consulted Mr. Kell, he declined to advise him, and he was obliged to consult his solicitor, who recommended him to call a special meeting. The Town Clerk, he must say, was very candid. He said he must decline to give him any advice, the Council having withheld their confidence from him.

Mr. HODGSON: But that business was settled and done. (A Voice: We must have a fresh Treasurer and Town Clerk.)

The TREASURER said, having first got one notice, and then another, he must confess he was afraid to make the payment.

Mr. HODGSON said, in reference to animadversions made on Mr. Pearse, he thought the Town Clerk was more in error. He absolutely declined to advise the Mayor what to do in relation to the notice. His Worship, thus circumstanced, came to him (Mr. Hodgson), and they consulted Messrs. Griffiths & Orighton. He presumed they would have to pay those gentlemen themselves. (A Voice: O, no! they'll give that in.—Laughter.)

Mr. PEARSE undertook to obey the orders of the Council in future; and there was some further discussion as to the law of the case, during which the letters of Messrs. Ingledew & Daggett were severely commented upon.

Mr. HALL, being again asked to name the parties by whom he was called in, when the ground was about to be staked out, said he was present at the request of Mr. Cail, the purchaser, and Mr. Apedaile, the solicitor of the vendor. Mr. Hall repeated what passed on the ground.

Mr. HEWITT said, he ought to have apprised them of the circumstances before the wall was built.

Mr. HALL said he would have done so, if any doubt had remained on his mind.

Mr. SKELTON thought the Surveyor, instead of going to the Town Clerk, should have consulted the Council.

Mr. HEWITT said, the Town Clerk, in this case, was the solicitor of the vendor.

Mr. SKELTON made some severe remarks on the conduct of the Town Clerk—who, he said, had stooped to the office of collecting evidence for the plaintiff, that he might give it against the Corporation. He had scratched up the earth under the hedge to make out the case of the plaintiff. Such conduct he could not but regard as most disgraceful, and he felt called upon to move a vote expressive of their want of confidence id the Town Clerk.

Mr. Ald. CUMMINS regretted that such a motion should be necessary; but, with his sentiments, he could not decline to second it.

The MAYOR said, the meeting being convened for special business, not embracing this motion, it was irregular.

Mr. COOK concurred with the Mayor, and hoped the motion would be withdrawn.

Mr. Ald. ROBSON: Until next meeting.

Mr. COOK would not say that.

Mr. GRAY was sorry that such a motion had been submitted, and deprecated some of the remarks made by the mover. The Town Clerk might err in judgment, but his integrity was not to be impeached; and it must be remembered that the result of the trial had accorded with his opinion.

Mr. HODGSON also dissented from some of Mr. Skelton's remarks, but he agreed with others. Mr. Kell certainly volunteered evidence against the Corporation.

Mr. Ald. ROBSON: I quite agree with Mr. Skelton.

Mr. BRINTON: And so do I. If the other side won the trial, it was in spite of themselves. They claimed the ground on the plea that a ditch ran along the hedge-bottom, and that they had a right to go to the outside of the ditch. That was the ground on which we were advised that the public had no right to complain of the wall, and that we had not a leg to stand upon. But at the last moment they were obliged to give up the ditch; for their case had not a leg to stand on, so far as that was concerned. (A Voice: And they also said there was a wall by the side of the hedge, and they were also obliged to give up the wall.) Yes! the wall and the ditch were both given up; and it was only because the hedge had not been kept close clipped, so that the public could use the full width of the path, that they got the verdict. They were all wrong to begin with, and won the trial against their own law, and contrary to the advice given to the Council.

The motion was withdrawn, and the meeting broke up.

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GATESHEAD FELL READING ROOM.

At the second annual *soiree*, held in the Public Rooms, Gateshead Low Fell, on Wednesday, March 15, 1854, the following address, partly autobiographical, written by the venerable President, Thomas Wilson, Esq., of Fell House, (of the firm of Losh, Wilson, & Bell, Walker Ironworks,) was read by his son, Mr. William Wilson :—

Friends and Neighbours,—I do not profess to deliver you a lecture to-night :—I only mean to show you, in a few words, the importance of education to your children, and the benefits it may confer upon them in after life; to show you, if it do not ultimately improve their social position, that it may be a constant source of information and amusement, and secure them hours of happiness such as are not to be obtained in any other way. This I mean to do in as plain language as I can, so that you may easily understand what I say. I do not pretend to teach the well-educated; but those only who have not been so fortunate as to enjoy the advantages of education at all, or in a very limited degree; and to induce them to remedy this, as far as possible, by educating their children.

Now, it is naturally incumbent on every man to provide himself with food and raiment by the labour of his hands, who has no other means of obtaining them. All other pursuits must give way to this. The poor man is obliged to make his children labour as soon as they are able; but all men do not toil for their subsistence. Several, whose birth seems to have doomed them to a life of labour, build up their own fortune by industry and good conduct, based upon a little learning in early life, improved by close application to books in after years, when fewer hours are required for labour. In short, they are what we call self-taught men.

Much may be done in this way, and much has been done, by many who still labour for their bread, whilst they enjoy all the pleasures arising from a well-stored mind, the result of a well-spent early life. This is a proof that the condition of a poor man will always be improved by education, and that even an escape from toil is not impossible.

Then why not give your children a chance of advancing their condition, in affording them the means by educating them? You say the chance of their success is so small, that you despair of their arriving at the wished-for result? But why despair? We all know the thing is possible, as several, we are sure, have succeeded in placing themselves and families in respectable situations in life, who at their birth seemed apparently doomed to a life of toil. I know of one who, 70 years ago, had all the difficulties to contend with that you and your children can have had—who laboured in the pits, around where we are now standing, eleven years; commencing as a trapper in his eighth year, and toiling through every gradation up to that of a hewer when he was nineteen. Then he ceased to labour in the coal pits; but still the struggle was to be continued, as the coal-pit was not a flattering testimonial for promotion to the very lowest situation where a little learning is required. And this man, I am sure, had greater difficulties to surmount than boys have at this day. Trams, in his day, did not run upon iron plates as they do now; nor are putters and trappers kept at this drudgery from 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning till 8 or 9 o'clock at night, as they were then, having only about four hours for rest, and for a great part of the year never seeing the light of day from the Sunday evening until the Saturday succeeding. There was little time for learning here.

There are many others who have raised themselves from labour to eminent situations in life. There are, amongst others, two who have been so fortunate in this neighbourhood—Charles Hutton, the late mathematician, and George Stephenson, the father of the gentleman who now stands at the head of our engineers. The former, in early life, wrought in Longbenton pit; and the latter attended an engine at Killingworth colliery. George Stephenson I knew well. He managed our engine department at Walker ironworks upwards of thirty years ago. I could name several others that have left labour for respectable situations in life, acquired by their own exertions.

Of course these are not every-day cases. I merely mention them to show how much it is possible for a poor man to do, who has a little education to commence with, and is anxious to obtain more. But, without that, nothing can be done. With this, however, as a starting point, a man so disposed may do a great deal by using all the means in his power to instruct himself. This, however, will not admit of loitering and idling away time, by hanging about highways and hedges or sitting in public houses.

I forget what author it is who says that all our faults spring from inability to be alone:—want of excitement amongst our youth, who live an insipid life in an insipid home, and seek it at the public house or amongst improper associates. Therefore, anything which gives them recreation at home or at the reading room is one of the greatest benefits which can be conferred upon them.

I am confident of this, and I believe your experience will lead you to concur with me, that intellectual and literary pursuits will ever be found most valuable, as tempering, as well as enlightening, the days of prosperity and the hours of joy; whilst they are even more efficacious in softening the pangs of grief, and rendering less poignant the many hours of sorrow which it is the lot of all of us to endure.

I would wish you to understand that the small education which a working young man gets at school only enables him to move in the right direction; the rest must all depend upon himself; but, then, in a right-minded man, reading and improving himself affords him the purest pleasures. Who would, then, forego this pleasure, seeing that it may be productive of such lasting benefits? A man should learn every day: his education should only cease with his life.

We will now look at the subject in another point of view. The advantages of a moderate education are very numerous, even if you fail in your endeavours to escape from hard labour. Is there no satisfaction in knowing what others are ignorant of—in being more informed than they are? Is it nothing to be able to read the newspapers of the day? not only to inform yourselves of what is passing around you, but seeing what is passing in far distant countries, and becoming acquainted with all the extraordinary improvements and discoveries that have taken place in our native land during the last thirty years? How much all these have contributed to the comforts and conveniences of society, I need not point out:—you are all able to see their value.

I need not point out to you the plague and trouble that are spared by the lucifer match, particularly to those of you who have frequently required a light during the night for the infant. Instead of knapping for half an hour with flint and steel upon half-burnt tinder, as we of the olden time had often to do, you have a light instantly, without scarcely rising from your pillow. Don Quixote's friend, Sancho, blessed the man who invented sleep; but if you knew the trouble attending flint and steel operations, you would doubly bless the man who produced the lucifer match.*

Have not your own countrymen been eminently successful in producing the wonders we see around us—such as travelling by steam on land and water, lighting your houses

* That man was Mr. John Walker, of Stockton-upon-Tees, who still carries on business there as a chemist and druggist. Chemical matches threatened the empire of flint and steel thirty or forty years ago; and in 1827 Mr. Walker was preparing some lighting mixture. He had dipped in a match, intending to make experiment in the then common mode, when accidentally he scrubbed it on the hearth, and it ignited. A new light was thus thrown upon matchmaking, of which Mr. Walker was not slow to avail himself. In April, 1827, he commenced the sale of friction matches. For a box of 50 lucifers, with a piece of sand-paper for friction, the charge was a shilling. A whole gross of boxes, gorged with matches, may now be had for about eighteenpence! The Jurors' Reports (Exhibition of 1851) refer the appearance of the *friction* matches to the year 1833. On the publication of these reports, we drew the attention of Dr. Warren Delarue, one of the authors, to the facts now stated, and he courteously expressed his regret that he was not earlier acquainted with them.—Ed. G. O.

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and streets with gas, having your letters sent nearly postage free by the penny postage, and the electric telegraph conveying information with the speed of lightning!

One hundred and fifty years ago, intemperance was very prevalent in this country, even among men whose writings are an ornament to the land we live in; but this destructive vice has been gradually disappearing, as the taste for reading and the spread of knowledge have increased. Reading gives home the purest happiness, and destroys the temptation for visiting public houses, and squandering that which ought to go to the improvement of the mind, and to add to your domestic comforts in various ways. If this improvement continue as it has done for the last fifty years, and of which I have no doubt, it will sooner and more effectually destroy drunkenness than the system of teetotalism now so prevalent.

But the most important advantage arising from education is the enabling you to read and understand the Scriptures — to make yourselves well acquainted with those beautiful precepts which Christ left us for our guidance here, and for our preparation for a future state. Is it not of the utmost consequence that you should judge for yourselves in so important a matter, as you are directed to do, rather than rely entirely upon the opinions and teachings of others? Had men been always able to read and judge for themselves, the persecutions and murders which have disgraced Christianity could never have occurred. Nor will they cease until knowledge make men ashamed of intolerance, and determined to be no longer the tools of others.

I will now close these remarks with a few words, showing the present improved state of our village. A person who lived here in the year 1810, has only to look round him to be convinced of the great improvements that have taken place on Gateshead Low Fell. Previous to that time it was merely a waste or Common, spotted with cottages, and inhabited principally by pitmen belonging the neighbouring collieries, with not a few wandering tribes who gained their bread by travelling the country during the summer, returning in the winter here, where they could rent a cottage at a small expense; and the common afforded them an output for their asses; so that, in the language of that day, our population consisted of tinkers, fawa, and muggers. Our cottages were thatched with divots cut from the common, and our soil was covered with quarries and coal pits. At the above time, a bill was passed for dividing the common, which was the commencement of our greatest improvements. Much of the land was divided into small allotments, which led to a general change in the appearance of the place. The pits and quarries were filled up with the refuse which had been taken out of them when working, so that in the course of a few years those unsightly holes and heaps nearly all disappeared, and the land looked as if they had never existed. After the division of the common our church was built, and a much better description of houses made its appearance. The travellers gradually left us, and our population increased in numbers and respectability. The new line of road to London, which was opened in 1826, helped us on amazingly; and ever since, as the Americans say, we have "gone a-head," until the High Level Bridge is likely to unite us, in the course of time, with Gateshead and Newcastle. Already several splendid buildings have made their appearance, near the Brick Dean, of various tasteful orders of architecture. It behoves us, therefore, to prepare ourselves for giving a suitable reception to such respectable neighbours as Gateshead and Newcastle; with whom the Fell, I have no doubt, will one day shake hands.

Seeing, then, that we have so far improved our village, and kept pace with the general enlightenment of the age, we must not halt now, with all the vastly-multiplied means of improvement now in our power. We are now supplied with plenty of useful books at little or no expense, with a comfortable room to read them in, free from the inconvenience of a large family. Are we, then, with all these advantages within our reach—advantages such as our forefathers never knew, to stand still and not avail ourselves of them, in cultivating those talents with which the Deity has endowed us? You will recollect the rebuke the sluggard in Scripture received for not improving the talents that he possessed. Does not this show us that we are expected to improve the gifts that our Maker has given us, as well as to use our best endeavours to improve our fellow men? Let us maintain a successful rivalry with those amongst the neighbouring villages whose progress is weekly surprising us in the papers of the day—and let us use every power which God has given us to improve and make happy those around us. There are few without the power, in some degree, of pointing out to the idle and thoughtless the comforts and pleasures of a man who fulfils the designs of Providence in cultivating his mind and helping forward the general improvement. The man who has books and can read them is able to assist. He can choose his subject; and can either improve himself by study, or amuse himself with works of a lighter description. Let me, then, impress upon you the duty of educating your children, and occupying your leisure time in your own improvement, by reading and daily adding to your knowledge.

It perhaps may not be out of place, here, to give you a sketch of Mr. Samuel Barrass, one of the early benefactors of our calf-yard, and who for many years successfully taught a school close by Carter's Well (another great benefactor of the place). From this talented and well-informed gentleman I got all the teaching I ever got, after I had learnt the alphabet with old Susan Arthur. He was a self-taught man, and I have been informed that his early years were spent in the coal-pits, and that, owing to an accident to one of his legs whilst there, he was induced to try to gain his bread in another way. He must have had a foundation laid by some village teacher; but a never-tiring industry being combined with his good natural abilities, he made himself a good mathematician, and an intelligent, well-informed man. Getting my education in the evenings, after the labour of the day, I had an opportunity of witnessing the perseverance of this self-taught man in improving himself in his profession. He commenced increasing his knowledge as soon as his day-scholars left and his night-school began. During all the vacations, he told me, he was in the habit of visiting the most respectable schoolmasters in the towns and villages around him — so that he may be said literally to have often been on his travels in search of knowledge. He did not, however, always confine his journeys to the places around him, for after he had made himself master of navigation, he set sail to Flushing, then a very flourishing port in Holland, to teach that useful science to the sailors there. This will be nearly 70 years ago. He was successful there, and returned with his pockets tolerably lined, built himself a very respectable house, and died, bequeathing a little property for his children, and a character, for their example and imitation, more valuable than gold.

GATESHEAD POOR LAW UNION.—The fortnightly meeting was held on March 28, at the union workhouse. Present:—The Chairman; G. H. Ramsay, Esq., J.P.; and Messrs. Robson, Cook, Crawshay, Ionn, Munro, Brinton, Makepeace, Clark (William), Murray, and Fawcett. The Clerk (Mr. Foreman) read the minutes, and ten notices of marriage. The returns showed that there were 194 inmates in the workhouse at the commencement of the fortnight, and 184 at its close. 2,432 paupers had received outdoor relief in the first week of the fortnight, and 2,409 in the second, at a total cost of £284 18s. 11½d., (£25 19s. in kind, and the remainder in money). The books exhibited £155 arrears due from Heworth, £35 from Ryton, £60 from Ryton Woodside, £25 from Stella, £372 10s. from Whickham, and £251 2s. 1d. from Winlaton. The Treasurer's balance due the union was £1,758 17s. 1d. Cheques were issued to the amount of £564 7s. 11d. Some ordinary business was transacted, and the periodical contracts were then let as follows:—Bread, flour, oatmeal, peas, barley? butcher-meat, milk, not contracted for. Groceries, Mr. George Bell, tea 3s. 4d., coffee 1s. 1d., soap 43s., sugar 36s.; clothing materials, Messrs. J. & W. Robson; ready-made clothes,

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Mr. J. F. Brett; iron bedsteads, Mr. Hawdon, 21s. each; coals, Mr. T. Neilson, 19s. per 54 cwt.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the GOVERNORS of the GATESHEAD DISPENSARY, will be holden in the Townhall, Gateshead, on MONDAY, the 3d day of April, at 12 o'clock, for the purpose of ELECTING a RESIDENT MEDICAL OFFICER, who is required to be a Member of one of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons, or a Licentiate of Apothecaries' Hall. Candidates must send their Testimonials to the Secretary on or before Monday, the 27th inst. WILLIAM KELL, Secretary.

Gateshead, March 3, 1854.

TO THE GOVERNORS OF THE GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.

MY LORDS, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,—Permit me to thank you for the most courteous reception I have invariably met with during my canvass—the success of which makes me confident of being elected to the House-Surgeoncy of your invaluable Charity.

I have the honour to be,
My Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,
W. YOUNG, L.A.S.E.

South Shields, March 25.

TO THE GOVERNORS OF THE GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.

MY LORDS, LADIES, and GENTLEMEN,—Permit me to return you my thanks for the kind reception you gave me during my Canvass for the Office of House Surgeon to your excellent Charity, and at the same time to remind you that the Election takes place on Monday next, April 3, at noon, when I earnestly beg the favour of your presence and support.

I am, my Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
JOHN HUME.

North Shields, March 30th, 1854.

TO THE GOVERNORS OF THE GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.

MY LORDS, LADIES, and GENTLEMEN,—After a most flattering reception at your hands, permit me to remind you that the Day of Election is fixed for the 3d of April, and that your presence alone is necessary to realize the expectation which my canvass has induced me to form.

I shall ever retain a deep sense of your kindness, and I trust by your generosity to be placed in a position to deserve and maintain its continuance.

I have the honour to be,
My Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen,
Your humble and obedient servant,
T. W. CRASTER, L.A.S.E.

3, Saville-row, March 18, 1854.

BLACK BULL INN, GATESHEAD.—The enterprising host, Mr. Brinton, starts his new cabs on Thursday, the 6th April. Several of his friends, at whose instance he entered upon this movement, have resolved to inaugurate the undertaking in the "good old English" fashion of a dinner; which, if it be a "hackneyed" one, is therefore the more appropriate to the occasion. We believe that they will be glad of the company of any "go ahead" friend of smooth and comfortable "progress" who may choose to join them on the evening of the above-named day, if he will only intimate his intention to "mine host" a little beforehand.

GATESHEAD FELL READING ROOMS.—The *soiree* has left a handsome balance in the hands of the treasurer (Thomas Wilson, Esq.), which will be expended in improving the library. The Countess of Strathmore and Mrs. John Greene have each subscribed £1, and Mrs. R. W. Hodgson 10s., towards the funds.

THE GATESHEAD TOWN-COUNCIL.

MAYOR.	COUNCILLORS	†Hewitt, James
Haggie, David	Allhusen, Chris.	†Hodgson, R. W.
ALDERMEN.	†Brinton, George	Hunter, George
†Cummins, T.	†Cook, William	Hymers, J. A.
Hawks, George	†Crawshay, E.	Ionn, F. P.
Lister, John	Douglas, William	†Patterson, G.
Pearson, C. J.	Garbutt, C.	†Skelton, John
†Robson, Joseph	Gray, Alex. Geo.	†Vickers, John
†Smith, James	†Haggie, Peter	†Wilson, James

☞ Those marked (†) were present.

AN adjourned meeting was held on April 5th, at the Townhall. In the absence of the Mayor, Mr. Alderman SMITH was called upon to preside.

The minutes were read.

The TOWN CLERK stated that he had received a letter from Mr. Swinburne calling in the money (£1,000) lent on mortgage of the Townhall by Mr. W. R. Hunter. It was trust-money, and had now become divisible. Six months' notice was given, but it would be convenient if the loan could be repaid on the 1st of May, when the interest was due. It had been suggested, said Mr. Kell, at a previous meeting, that some portion of the corporate debts should be discharged; and if the borough-rate now due from the Overseers were paid up, it would not be necessary to replace by a loan more than half the money now called in.

Mr. HODGSON moved that the Overseers be called upon by the Town Clerk to pay up the arrears forthwith. Seconded by Mr. PETER HAGGIE, and carried.

Mr. Ald. ROBSON said, a friend of his could advance what more was needed, at a moment's notice, to enable the Corporation to comply with Mr. Swinburne's letter.

Mr. COOK: At what rate of interest?

Mr. Ald. ROBSON: 4½ per cent.

The TOWN CLERK read a report from the Watch Committee, from which it appeared that P.C. Anderson had enlisted in the Life Guards, giving no notice to the Committee. P.C. Miller now occupied his place. The report (which was confirmed) recommended an addition of £5 to the salary of Superintendent Schorey.

Mr. Ald. ROBSON presented a report from the Public Health Committee, touching on a variety of subjects.

1. The General Board of Health required further information as to the sewerage of the eastern district of the town, to enable Mr. Henry Austin, C.E., to come to a satisfactory decision thereon.—The Town Surveyor was instructed to furnish the requisite information. On the suggestion of the TOWN CLERK, it was resolved to forward, also, the annual rateable value of the district affected by the proposed sewerage:—information which would be required before

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money would be lent, and which, if sent now, might prevent delay hereafter. Mr. Cook expressed a hope that money would not be borrowed until it was actually wanted. As he had stated before (although the statement had been called in question in a newspaper published in the borough), money borrowed for the Baths and Washhouses at 4 per cent. was lying in the Commercial Bank at 2½.*

2. Mr. Cook had written to the Committee intimating his intention to enclose with a wall his land at Woodbine-place, and wishing to come to some arrangement as to his boundary line next the Stony Flats road, at the back of Sedgwick-place. The Town Surveyor, it appeared, was of opinion that the line of the quicks was Mr. Cook's boundary; while his solicitor advised him that he was entitled to go four feet beyond that line. The Town Clerk, being called upon, read the award under which the common lands were enclosed. It required the allottees to put down, on the lines of the stakes inserted by Mr. Bell, a hedge, a mound, or a wall. If a wall, to be erected on the line of the stakes. If a hedge, the owner to have the privilege of using four feet beyond for purposes of scouring. Roads to be 26 feet wide. In this case, it appeared that the road, measured from the quicks on the one side to the wall on the other, ranged from 24 feet 2 inches to 24 feet 10; so that either the original lines had not been laid down in accordance with the award, or, in the erection of Sedgwick-place, an encroachment had been committed. Mr. Ald. Cummins said, he could assure the Council that in erecting Sedgwick-place the wall had been scrupulously carried along the line of the stems, without the slightest encroachment. There was a long discussion, in which the case of "Cail *v.* Corporation" was again brought before the Council, and the Town Clerk stated, in reply to a reiterated allusion to his volunteered evidence, that he was not a volunteer witness:—he appeared on a subpœna. Mr. Hodgson reminded him that he had sought out evidence on the spot, and given it in court:—Mr. Watson, he supposed, must have had it in his brief, that two persons could not walk on the path abreast, and, that the ashes did not come within a certain distance of the stems. The Town Clerk said, the evidence as to the ashes was not given in reply to Mr. Watson, but, on cross-examination, in reply to Mr. Knowles. A trench had been dug, and he had examined the earth. The result of that examination he should have stated just the same, if it had made against, instead of for, the plaintiff. In giving his evidence he simply stated facts.—It is needless to go into all the details of the discussion of Mr. Cook's case, since he offered to leave the question to the decision of any competent referee, and the Council named Mr. Thomas Bell, of Newcastle, with permission to Mr. Cook to be heard by his legal adviser, Mr. Swinburne. Mr. Bell to decide whether the line of the stems is Mr. Cook's boundary, or some line further west; and his decision to be final.

3. Tenders had been received for the removal of household refuse and street sweepings, and the carting of street materials. The Committee recommended that Mr. John Eden's be accepted.—Agreed to.

* It was stated, at the time, that the money was borrowed at 5 per cent.; and "a newspaper published in the borough" replied that the ratepayers would have to pay no more than 4. We have no recollection that we ever called in question any other statement made on the subject of the interest.—Ed. G.O.

The report, which dealt with various other matters—(road improvements, nuisances, plans of new houses, &c., &c.) was confirmed, subject to the resolutions of the Council.

Mr. Skelton rose to bring forward a motion, and requested the Town Clerk to retire. (The Town Clerk retired.) Mr. Skelton said, he proposed to renew the motion which, the last meeting being convened for special business, could not then be entertained. He referred to Mr. Kell's conduct prior to and during the late proceedings at law. His connection, he said, with the vendor of the site at Catherine-terrace, and his relationship to the purchaser, should have rendered him peculiarly guarded and circumspect, and yet his conduct throughout had been that of a partisan. Mr. Skelton, having reviewed the circumstances, moved a resolution expressive of want of confidence in the Town Clerk, and especially in regard to the case of "Cail *v.* Corporation." He trusted that the Council would mark its sense of the Town Clerk's conduct; or, if not, that the ratepayers would mark their sense of the conduct of the Council.

Mr. Ald. Cummins seconded the motion, and, alluding to thousands of pounds lost by the Corporation, threw the responsibility on their legal adviser.

Mr. Ald. Robson concurred in the motion. They were thwarted by the Town Clerk, instead of assisted.

Mr. Peter Haggie supported the motion on the ground that he could have no confidence in the soundness of the Town Clerk's decisions. He was sorry to have to vote for such a motion; but if the Town Clerk could not see that they had no confidence in him, they must say so.

The Deputy Mayor said, it must be borne in mind that, if they had been guided by the Town Clerk's decision, at the commencement of the late dispute, there would have been no legal proceedings.

Mr. Brinton said, the Town Clerk's opinion was given on a wrong assumption, as he had stated at the special meeting. Mr. Kell proceeded on grounds which the plaintiff was obliged to abandon. He would vote for the motion.

The motion was put, and carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Skelton, as all hands were not held up, called for the names being taken down.

Mr. Cook said, he did not vote simply because he was not master of the subject, not having been in the Council when the proceedings in question originated.

The meeting broke up.

To the Worshipful the Mayor of Gateshead.

Town Hall, Gateshead, 6th April, 1854.

Dear Sir,—The Council having yesterday come to a resolution "That this Council and Local Board of Health have a want of confidence in their Town Clerk, chiefly from his conduct in the matter Cail *v.* The Corporation," it becomes imperative upon me at once to announce to you, as Chief Magistrate of the Borough, the course which I intend, in consequence, to pursue. It not having been the pleasure of the Council that I should be present at their proceedings, or that any opportunity of explanation should be afforded to me, I am necessarily without information as to what may have passed on this occasion, other than that which is to be collected from the terms of the resolution.

It would appear, then, that to the line of conduct pursued by me with reference to the dispute between

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the Council and Mr. Cail, this vote is to be attributed. On this account it becomes proper for me shortly to recapitulate what my conduct has been as the legal adviser of the Council. When I was consulted as to the legality of pulling down Mr. Cail's wall, I gave to the matter, as was my duty, a full and anxious consideration; and I came to the conclusion that such an act could not be justified, and would, in all probability, involve the boorough in much litigation, without, in my judgment, any reasonable prospect of success. That opinion I intimated to the Council, and very fully stated the grounds upon which it was founded. This attempt of mine to dissuade them from the course which they contemplated was not successful; and without, so far as I have heard, any other legal opinion having been obtained, the wall was pulled down.

In consequence of this, proceedings were taken by Mr. Cail against the Corporation. The defence of these proceedings was not entrusted to me. I merely advert to this circumstance to show that I could not be in way responsible for the result; but I cannot even make this allusion, without expressing my conviction that the highly-respectable firm who, on that occasion, represented the Corporation, omitted nothing calculated to ensure their client's success.

I was compelled to attend this trial, having been subpœnaed by both parties; and, under the solemn obligation of an oath, I had to state such facts as were within my knowledge.

The result of the action was unfavourable to the Corporation, as I had from the beginning anticipated; and the advice which I had given was thus sustained by the decision of the Court.

It would appear that my offence has been the offering to the Council advice which was distasteful to them, and which, if followed, would have saved much unpleasantness, and a large and useless expenditure in costs.

I have had the honour of filling the office of Town Clerk since the Municipal Reform Bill gave Gateshead a Council; and, during that somewhat lengthened period, I have endeavoured faithfully, and without fear or favour, to discharge my duties to the borough. I regret that on this late occasion it should have been thought proper to withdraw from me the confidence of the Council, but I also feel that no act of mine has warranted such a withdrawal.

It is impossible for me to continue to hold my office after this resolution of the Council. I have, in consequence, to state, that at the first meeting of the body over which you preside, I shall place my resignation in their hands. In the meantime the ordinary duties of the office shall be attended to.

I remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully,
WILLIAM KELL.

THE GATESHEAD TOWN CLERKSHIP.

It will excite no surprise, in those who have read our notice of the proceedings at the Townhall on Wednesday last, to find in another page the letter of the Town Clerk to the Mayor, intimating his intention to place his resignation of office in the hands of the Council at the next quarterly meeting. Under the circumstances, a gentleman of any spirit had no other course left to him.

However much we may regret the rupture, it does not come upon us unexpected. Ever since the Town Clerk felt himself precluded by his position from advising the Mayor, we foresaw that, sooner or later, in some way or other, a separation must take place. We did not, indeed, anticipate that the step which rendered his resignation imperative would be taken in his absence—during an exclusion which, however well-meant, was certainly not well-conceived. But we were prepared for the event; and we can only regret that Mr. Kell's long tenure of office should end otherwise than agreeably on both sides. More able public servants there may be:—but one more attentive, laborious, and conscientious, it would be impossible to find. Less than this we could not say:—we will not say more. From the beginning, we have abstained from taking any part in the proceedings which have led to this issue. We have done so, because we were persuaded that our interference could be of no public benefit; and, for the same reason, we preserve our abstinence—expressing nothing beyond our hope that the prospective vacancy will be supplied by the Council for the public good.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.

The election of a House Surgeon, in the place of the late Mr. Charles Brown, was held on April 3, at noon, in the Townhall, (Mr. Alderman Robson in the chair).

Mr. T. W. Craster was nominated by Mr. Cornelius Garbutt, and seconded by Mr. John Edwards.

Mr. John Fenwick nominated Mr. John Hume—who was seconded by Mr. Phillips.

The credentials and testimonials of the candidates were read.

Whilst the poll was in progress, Mr. Clephan moved the confirmation of a resolution of the committee, raising the annual salary of the House Surgeon from £80 to £100. Mr. B. J. Prockter and Mr. Joshua Watson seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The voting papers were then cast up, and the result ascertained to be—

Mr. Craster	52
Mr. Hume	25

Whereupon the Chairman declared Mr. Craster to be duly elected, and Mr. Craster returned thanks.

The Secretary (Mr. William Kell) moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Rowland, who had temporarily held the office, and given the highest satisfaction to the Committee, to the Medical Staff, and to the poor. Being under age, he could not legally qualify for the office, or he believed he might say that every governor who had witnessed the manner in which he had performed his duties would have voted for him. (Applause.)

Mr. Clephan seconded the motion, and said, it was with much regret that the Committee had felt obliged to declare a vacancy while Mr. Rowland was legally ineligible to become a candidate, being fully impressed with a conviction of his professional and moral fitness for the appointment. He had strong claims upon them, from the readiness with which he had stepped in to the assistance of the charity in a season of emer-

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gency; and the grateful acknowledgments of the governors were also due to the House Committee of the Newcastle Infirmary, by whom Mr. Rowland had been set free, in a kind and neighbourly spirit, for the service of the Gateshead Dispensary. (Applause.)

Mr. Alderman Smith warmly supported the motion; and the Chairman said he had great pleasure in putting it to the meeting. It was carried by acclamation.

On the suggestion of the Secretary, Mr. Garbutt moved an instruction to the Committee to revise the rules, and submit them, as amended, to the consideration of the next general meeting of the governors. Mr. Ald. Smith having seconded the motion, it was adopted.

The Treasurer (Mr. John Kimpster) moved the thanks of the meeting to the Chairman, and the proceedings closed.

Obituary Notice.

DIED, on the 31st ult., at Greenwich, Mr. EDWARD RIDDLE, F.R.A.S., Master of the Mathematical School, Royal Hospital, of that place, a situation which he had held for 30 years. He was one of the most distinguished of the many eminent mathematicians who have been reared within the watershed of the Tyne. Mr. Riddle was born at Troughend, in 1788, and first kept school at Otterburn, on Reedwater, a village not less interesting from its romantic situation than from its historical associations. Here he became acquainted with the late Mr. James Thompson, a person well known in these parts for upwards of half a century, and who was remarkable for his knowledge of many branches of science, as well as for considerable attainments in mathematics. It is not improbable that Mr. Riddle derived from him that taste for the sciences which clung to his mind with such tenacity to the end of his life. What renders this more likely is, that about that time, before he was 20, he made an electrical machine with his own hands, and with it showed the ordinary phenomena produced by that instrument. At that period it is easily imagined with what wonder and alarm a ring of rustics would feel the electric impulse sent through their bodies with a sensation unknown before.

> And still they gazed, and still the wonder grew,
> That one small head should carry all he knew.

From Otterburn Mr. Riddle removed to Whitburn, in the county of Durham; and while there, in 1810, his name first appeared in the *Ladies' Diary*, then under the editorship of Dr. Hutton, whose friend he subsequently became, and who rendered him such important assistance in advancing his success in life. It thus appears that at the age of 22 he had made great progress in mathematical studies. For many years he continued to be a distinguished contributor to the *Ladies' Diary*, in which his solutions were always remarkable for beauty and accuracy. In the years 1814, 1819, Mr. Riddle obtained the prize given by the editor of that famous periodical. He told the writer of this notice that the complete mastery of Playfair's Euclid, which he accomplished about this time, had produced such an effect upon his mind as to render the acquisition of any other mathematical subject easy. After continuing seven years at Whitburn, Mr. Riddle, through the recommendation of Dr. Hutton, was appointed Master of the Trinity House School, Newcastle, in which he remained seven years, proving by his energy and abilities of the greatest service to the nautical education of the port, which had previously been in the lowest possible state. In 1821, while Master of the Trinity House School, Mr. Riddle made an extensive series of observations to ascertain the longitude of that school, and "to determine, by actual experiment, what confidence may now be placed in the results of lunar observations." The mean longitude was found to be 1 deg. 37 min. 17 sec. W. These observations are given in a table in his remarks on the present state of Nautical Astronomy, published in 1821, and dedicated to the Master and Brethren of the Trinity House, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. This little essay is admirably written, and proves that he was as able to become the historian of Science as to extend her boundaries. In 1821, by the same powerful influence of Dr. Hutton, he was appointed Master of the Upper School, Royal Naval Asylum, Greenwich, where he remained till the period of his retirement in 1851. Soon after his removal to London, he became a member of the Royal Astronomical Society, to which he contributed several valuable papers. Mr. Riddle was one of the council of that learned body, and took an active part in all its plans for the advancement of science. In the third volume of the Transactions of the Society, there is an able paper by him, "On Finding the Rates of Timekeepers," in which he showed how this could be done without a transit instrument. To amateur astronomers, and to seafaring men, not having access to such an instrument, his method must be very useful. In the twelfth volume of the same Transactions, appeared another of his papers, "On the Longitude of Madras by Moon-Culminating Observations," which is very elaborate, and contains many valuable formulæ and remarks. The most valuable work, however, which ever came from Mr. Riddle's pen, is his "Treatise on Navigation and Nautical Astronomy." It was an immense improvement on the empirical compendiums in vogue when it appeared, combining, as it did, practice and theory in luminous order. It forms a course of mathematics for the nautical man, containing as much algebra and geometry as is necessary for the demonstrations of the various problems which it comprehends. It is a text book in the Royal Navy. Mr. Riddle was noted for the surprising quickness and accuracy with which he took celestial observations. Shortly after his retirement in 1851, his bust in marble was presented to him by a large number of friends, accompanied with the expression of their high esteem for his worth both as a public and private man. It was presented in the boys' department of Greenwich School—the Admiral and all the officers attending in full uniform. These were deserving honours, for a long, useful, and honourable life. He retired on full salary. His son, John Riddle, F.R.A.S., a worthy son of a worthy sire, succeeded him as head master of the Mathematical School at Greenwich Hospital. D.

GATESHEAD:—THE EVENT OF THE WEEK.—The event of the week has been the appearance in our streets of the Black Bull cabs and hackneys, Mr. Brinton having launched his new enterprise on Thursday, April 6, to the local tune of "Wylam, away!" Handsome coaches, good horseflesh, and liveried drivers, were much admired; and "canny Newcastle" was so blinded by the beauty of one of the coroneted

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Gateshead vehicles, that when it stopped at the door of a public institution, she made the inquiry "what nobleman's carriage it was!" We cannot have the slightest doubt of the success of the speculation, if Mr. Brinton can only realize the "promise" which, like "pie-crusts," would seem to be "made only to be broken" — namely, the stereotyped promise of "*steady* drivers." On Thursday evening, several friends of the undertaking assembled at the Black Bull to dinner. The chair was occupied by John Greene, Esq.: vice, John Sowerby, Esq. There were also present—Aldermen Cummins, Smith, Lister, and Robson; Councillors Hodgson, Hunter, and Douglas; and Messrs. Ralph Wylam (who handselled the cabs), William Wylam, Michael Greene, John Potts, Francis Bennett, J. E. Wilkinson, Forster Walker, Daniel Robson, J. Fairs, H. L. Monro, John Robson, T. Robson, George Miller, J. A. Hedley, &c., &c. The company dined handsomely and passed the evening pleasantly. The worthy landlord had provided good fare for his guests; and, in return, they wished him good "fares."

BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

GATESHEAD POOR LAW UNION. — The fortnightly meeting of the Guardians was held on April 11. Present:—The Chairman (Cornelius Garbutt, Esq.), and Messrs. Crawshay, Cook, Makepeace, Ionn, Brinton, Robson, and Fawcett. The following returns were laid on the table:—Inmates of the workhouse at the commencement of the fortnight 184, and at its close 169. Recipients of outdoor relief, first week of the fortnight, 2449, at a cost of £150 3s. 4½d.: second week, 2412, at a cost of £135 13s. 9d. Cheques were issued at the meeting for £666 4s. 11d., including cheques for relieving officers, and one for £55 10s. 6d. to Mr. Cail, and another for £100 to Mr. Pearson, in payment for the new buildings at the workhouse. Mr. Pearson's bill amounted to £162 10s., but some complaints were made of alleged defectiveness of one of the walls, and the cheque issued was only for £100. A letter was read from Mr. Wilson, the medical officer, recommending that a competent nurse be employed for the patients in the workhouse. It was resolved that a nurse should be sought after. A letter was read from the Poor Law Board, pointing out that receipts of relieving officers to the union treasurer were exempt from stamp duty. The Clerk, Mr. Foreman, read a statement showing that Whickham had paid to the treasurer during the fortnight £25, leaving £347 10s. still due; Winlaton £35, leaving £216 2s. 1d.; Stella had paid £25; Ryton Woodside £35, and Heworth £155. Gateshead had paid £27 towards next quarter's call. Balance in the treasurer's hands after the payment of the cheques, £632 13s. 7d. —The Chairman mentioned that Mr. Henderson, of the Smith's Arms, had placed in his hands, to be dealt with as the Board thought fit, a bank-book showing that an inmate of the union workhouse named Bennett, an old blacksmith, had £3 0s. 9d. in the savings' bank. The depositor being an inmate of the workhouse, the money, it appeared, legally belonged to the union; but after some conversation the general opinion seemed to be that the union should not exercise their right; and on the motion of Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Crawshay, it was resolved that the book be returned to the original owner, that he might purchase any addition to his comforts in the workhouse, or do with it as he thought proper. The Board then proceeded to the relief of the poor. Before breaking up, votes of thanks were passed to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for their services during the year.

GATESHEAD POOR LAW UNION.

THE result of the election of Guardians for the ensuing year (1854–5) has this week been declared.

Chopwell, William Cochrane Carr.
Crawcrook, Robert Clark.
Ryton, Robert Simpson.
Ryton Woodside, Joseph Anderson.
Stella, William Cook.
Whickham, John Etridge Wilkinson, Robert Tweddell, Robert Drummond, John Ramsay.
Winlaton, Joseph Cowen 149, Cuthbert Thompson, 135, Joseph Laycock 126, R. S. Bagnall 118, Andrew Thompson 86. (Not elected, Thomas Howdon 79.)
Heworth, Thomas Gallon 242, William Clark 231, George Murray 228, John B. Makepeace 213, Thomas C. Tomlin 207, Thomas Snowdon 127. (Not elected, W. W. Pattinson 113, H. L. Pattinson 79, T. C. Watson 71, R. W. Hodgson 57, R. C Forster 54, William Cook 24, T. H. Barnett 18, James Barclay 13.)
Gateshead, Cornelius Garbutt 514, Joseph Robson 492, William Cook 462, John Greene 436, David Haggie 375, John Sowerby 309, George Brinton 307, James Smith 300, R. W. Hodgson 281, T. C. Angus 277. (Not elected, David Gaddy 255, William Brown 250, A. G. Gray, 203, James Wilson 200, Jonathan Robson 194, Ralph Morton 174, Samuel Neville 161, George Hunter 138, Archibald Singer's 59.)

THE HANOVER-SQUARE CONGREGATION, NEWCASTLE.

CHURCH OF THE DIVINE UNITY.

WITHIN the last few years, we have been called on to record the erection of many new churches and chapels in this district—Episcopalian, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, Independent, and Methodist. The building and rebuilding of places of worship is, indeed, one of the peculiar features of our times; and almost every section of the Christian Church, in now providing for itself a house of prayer, aspires to the possession of a more graceful and beautiful fabric than the eighteenth century commonly produced.

It is upwards of a century and a quarter since the Protestant Dissenters of Hanover-square reared their commodious but heavy and inelegant meeting-house; and it is a remarkable fact, that during one-half of that long period its pulpit was occupied by one minister — the Rev. William Turner — who entered upon his first pastoral charge in 1782, and still survives!

Six years ago, his successor, the present minister, the Rev. George Harris, (such a project having for some time been meditated,) urged upon his flock the provision of "larger school-rooms," (enabling them "to effect many objects of essential value to the interests of the community,") and of "a place of worship in a more central situation of the town, worthy of the congregation to erect."

This admonition was not unheeded; measures have ever since been in progress for the attainment of the objects proposed to their consideration; and when it was ascertained that they were practicable, an eligible piece of ground was purchased of the Corporation in New Bridge-street, between the Trinity (Presbyterian) Church and the Weavers' Tower—the Unitarians forsaking the shelter of one of the towers (the White Friars') on the old wall of Newcastle, for the shadow of another. They wisely departed from

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the common practice of "tender" and "contract," and placed themselves in the hands of an architect and a builder of approved repute—Mr. John Dobson and Mr. Richard Cail; and Mr. Dobson designed them a building after the style called Decorated Gothic, which has two principal fronts, each of them being highly ornamental—that to the south being in New Bridge-street, and that to the west in a street which is intended to be carried through into Saville-row.

The plan is a parallelogram, 74½ feet long by 48 feet wide, the whole area being crowned by an open timbered high-pitched roof. The ground floor has accommodation for 300 sittings, and there are galleries all round the sides of the building, with sittings for about 300 more. Under the east gallery, and upon the ground floor, is the boys' school, capable of holding 250: it has sliding shutters, in order that the school may be added to the church during service. Communicating with this school is another, built on the exterior of the north side, for 100 girls.

In the basement is a library, 32½ feet long by 10½ feet wide.

The south elevation has on the ground floor five square-headed windows of three lights each; and immediately above these, five circular-headed windows of three lights each, filled with ornamental flowing tracery. Between these, and at the ends, are bold projecting canopied buttresses, terminating with a deeply moulded cornice, open perforated parapet, and ornamental pinnacles richly crocketted.

The entrance at the west end is a richly moulded circular-headed doorway, and is to be protected by a very handsome palisading, executed in cast iron by Mr. William Shields, of St. Peter's. On each side are massive buttresses, relieved by ornamental niches, and terminating with floreated triangular heads, the whole finishing with a high-pitched gable, surmounted by an elegant turret gablet.

Below the turret, and over the doorway, there is a large "decorated" memorial window, of four lights, 28 feet by 11, bearing at its base the names of departed members of the Hanover-square congregation, whose surviving relatives have erected this graceful monument to their memory. Across the window, in the four compartments immediately above the names, the Evangelists are depicted, each accompanied by an appropriate text from his Gospel. The two central compartments of the upper tier are occupied by figures of Faith and Hope, with scrolls bearing suitable passages from St. Paul. The compartments on either side present symbolic representations, suggested by these two Scripture passages—1. "The water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life," (John, iv. 14). 2. "The dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God," &c., (John, v. 25). In the tracery (the object of the window being kept in view throughout), the quatrefoil contains a representation of the miracle of Nain—the raising of the son—with the words of Christ in performing the miracle. On each side of the quatrefoil, in the tracery, is an angel bearing a scroll—the two scrolls containing the words of 1 Peter, i. 3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Of the execution and effect of this noble painted window, we need say nothing, since it is by Wailes. There is a small lancet light above, also filled with stained glass; and at the opposite end of the chapel, above the organ, there is a trefoil light—a coloured gem—comprising the monogram, "J.H.S," (which is also repeated on the communion cloth). The finest, however, of the painted windows, is that, perhaps, on the south side of the larger one, at the west end—subject, "The Good Shepherd"—the field being almost wholly occupied by a representation of Our Saviour in his pastoral character. The whole of this stained-glass work has been executed in the best manner of Mr. Wailes, (who, we may parenthetically state, has on hand, for Ely cathedral, one of the most extensive commissions of the kind that was ever given); and the cost has been borne by individual members of the congregation, without trenching on the general building fund.

The interior of the church has an open-timbered roof decorated in party colour.

The pulpit and communion arrangements are peculiarly happy.

The whole of the interior wood-work has been stained in oak by Mr. Lawson in a most workmanlike manner.

The building will be heated with hot water, with every provision for ventilation. Messrs. Christie have been entrusted to execute the arrangements for gas lighting.

Great credit is due to Mr. Cail for the perfect and workmanlike manner in which every department has been carried out, and more particularly for the great care he has bestowed on the minor details. Most faithfully has he executed the task confided to him by the congregation.

As for Mr. Dobson, to whom the Metropolis of the North, with the surrounding country, owes many works of beauty that will carry down his name to posterity, he has never been more happy than in the production of "The Church of the Divine Unity." It is an architectural gem; and well and liberally have architect and builder carried out their joint-work. A "place of worship, worthy of the congregation to erect," and an ornament to the town, has been added to the public buildings of the northern metropolis in one of its principal and most open and pleasant thoroughfares. The foundation stone was laid on the 20th of April, 1853, by Ivie Mackie, Esq., of Manchester, so that the building has been completed within the space of twelve months. On the occasion of the laying of the stone, we gave an historical sketch of the origin and progress of the congregation, which need not here be repeated.

At the east end of the church, opposite the great window, in the gallery, stands the organ—a new instrument, built by Nicholson, with a front designed by Mr. Dobson in harmony with the building. It is a C. organ, on the German scale, and comprises great, swell, and pedal organs. The great organ has ten stops, viz., open and stop diapason, dulciana, principal, twelfth and fifteenth, sesquialto, double stop diapason, and cremona. The swell has seven:—open and stop diapason, celestina, principal, twelfth and fifteenth, trumpet and oboe. The pedal has one stop. There are also three copula stops.

The church was opened for divine worship on Thursday morning, the 13th April. The congregation was large. *One* hearer, only, we believe, (an old

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lady,) was present, who attended Hanover-square chapel when the Rev. Mr. Turner came to Newcastle. Mr. Harris read the Scriptures, and conducted the devotional service. Dr. Montgomery, of Dunmurry, Belfast, preached a discourse on the present aspect of the religious world—the chaotic state of its elements — and the "mission" (to use a common phrase) of the Unitarian body. In the course of his sermon, Dr. M. referred to the old tombstone (built-in to the new church at the entrance) of the Rev. William Durant, the founder of the congregation, (being one of the two thousand clergymen of the Church of England who resigned their livings on the passing of the Act of Uniformity in 1662).

Dr. Ions, organist of the church of St. Nicholas, presided at the organ. The service opened with a fine anthem, composed for the occasion by Mr. Harrison, the organist of the chapel, and closed with the "Hallelujah Chorus." Several musical friends lent their aid to the choir.

On Thursday, April 13, there was a social meeting at the Assembly Rooms, when from 700 to 800 persons took tea, prepared by Mr. Haigh, (the chair being occupied by the Rev. G. Harris, and the vice-chair by T. M. Greenhow, Esq.) Several interesting addresses were delivered during the evening, in response to appropriate sentiments, eloquently introduced by the Chairman. The Rev. R. B. Aspland, after an allusion to Mr. Harris's historical course of lectures in Hanover-square, delivered on the eve of the removal from the old place of worship, evinced his own acquaintance with the history of Nonconformity in Newcastle, passing in review the labours of John Knox—of the martyr Udall, pronounced by James the Sixth to be "the learnedest man in England"—of John Oxenbridge, the friend of Marvell and of Milton—and of Durant, Lever, Pringle, and Gilpin. He referred, also, to Captain Everard; to the complaints made against him to Cromwell; and to the Protector's wise and Christian responsive plea for tolerance and charity among godly men. He likewise spoke of Benjamin Bennett, whose death delayed the opening of the chapel in Hanover-square, and congratulated the congregation on the happier auspices under which their present beautiful temple had been inaugurated. But any abridgment of Mr. Aspland's locally and generally valuable address must do injustice to the learned editor of the *Christian Reformer*:—we hope to give it in full in a subsequent number. Dr. Montgomery, in the course of a short address, described his present visit to England as the close of his services on this side of the Irish Channel, and was met by loud and general expressions of "protestant dissent." He said, the pleasure of attending this social meeting amply repaid him for coming over from Belfast. He had never seen so numerous a gathering of the kind, and it was very gratifying to him to witness in Newcastle a spirit which brought so many members of other churches to an assembly of Unitarians.—At this stage of the proceedings, the Vice-Chairman, amidst loud cheers, presented to Mr. Harris, as a congregational offering, a handsome purse, containing one hundred guineas, on a silver salver, bearing a brief inscription, intimating that the gift was made to the last minister of Hanover-square chapel, on the opening day of the Church of the Divine Unity, he being one of its principal founders and promoters. Mr. Harris was much affected by this mark of regard and esteem, and closed a short reply with the assurance that deeds, not words, should be his acknowledgment of their kindness. The Chairman next called attention to the claims of Mr. Dobson and Mr. Cail, who, he said, by their great liberality, were entitled to be described as the largest contributors to the erection of the church. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Dobson, for himself and Mr. Cail (who had retired from the meeting), returned thanks. He said, his part in the matter had been a most pleasing one; and he had found the incessant exertions of Mr. Harris a great service to him in carrying on the work. The Rev. Edward Tagart, of Portland-street chapel, London, (honorary secretary of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association,) responding to a sentiment, expressed his high admiration of the edifice. The Rev. Mr. Gordon, who followed him, confessed to some misgivings as to the modern passion for Gothic architecture, but said, the present, he thought, was one of the most successful attempts that he had witnessed to reconcile it with the requirements of Protestant worship. In the Church of the Divine Unity, he had remarked with satisfaction, the minister had every face before him, in all parts of the building.—The Rev. Hugh Hutton afterwards spoke; and then, Dr. Montgomery proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and touched upon that most pleasing feature of the evening—the presentation of the congregational offering. At any time, he said, such a mark of respect and affection would be complimentary to a minister; but the present handsome gift, coming at a season when a great and costly work had taxed the resources of the congregation, it was tenfold more honourable to the donors and the receiver. (Loud cheers.) The Chairman replied, and alluded to the liberality of the ladies of the congregation, who had furnished the pews, pulpit, and communion table and platform, and also presented him with a new gown. The evening closed with singing and prayer.

April 14 (Good Friday), in the morning, there was divine service in the new church, when the Rev. Edward Tagart preached, and the communion was administered.

Mr. J. S. Liddle presided at the organ.

The Rev. John Gordon was the preacher yesterday night. Mr. Gordon was formerly a Wesleyan minister, and has for some years been stationed at Coventry as a Unitarian. We learn by the *Coventry Herald*, that having been induced to remove to Edinburgh, he was presented, before his departure from Coventry, with a silver inkstand and a purse containing £206:—not by his congregation, but by a number of the inhabitants "without respect to religious and political differences"—by "Churchmen and Dissenters, Trinitarians and Unitarians; Clergy and Laity; Tories, Whigs, and Radicals."

We have used no laudatory epithets in speaking of the discourses of Thursday and Friday. It is enough to say that they bore out the expectations which we inspired by our short notice of the 8th inst.

The Revds. R. B. Aspland, Edward Tagart, and Dr. Montgomery preach on Easter Sunday; and the Revds. Samuel Bache and Thomas Hincks on the Sunday following, April 16.

The collections, hitherto, have been liberal.

The Hon. Adolphus Vane, M.P., and Mr. Lindsay, M.P., have become members of the Newcastle, Shields, and Gateshead Chamber of Commerce.

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OUR EXPORTS.

THE latest official tables of the Board of Trade enable us to show the relative position of our export trade, for the month and two months ending the 5th ult., as follows:—

Manufactures.	Exports of Month ending March 5.			Exports of Two Months ending March 5.		
	1853.	1853.	1854.	1853.	1853.	1854.
Alkali (viz., Soda)...cwts.	84,216	75,631	61,688	162,241	135,080	120,099
Coals and Culm .....tons	197,997	160,127	210,889	377,555	383,521	412,506
Earthenware .....pieces	6,031,050	6,804,618	7,277,736	13,333,076	14,551,988	12,555,091
Glass:—						
Flint .....cwts.	2,992	2,088	3,406	5,643	5,192	6,053
Window	1,757	2,614	3,504	4,445	3,259	5,530
Bottles	24,823	32,882	32,475	66,615	52,851	59,857
Plate .....£	3,545	£2,128	£3,772	£5,816	£5,109	£7,159
Steam Machines .....£	28,363	£36,494	£32,078	£67,197	£38,259	£60,930
Iron, Pig .....tons	11,967	15,719	16,634	27,338	21,673	23,194
Bar, Bolt, and Rod....	26,431	34,120	42,756	70,207	53,933	74,749
Wire	338	791	755	1,414	638	1,382
Cast	2,002	4,956	5,055	9,960	3,539	10,105
Wrought	8,306	8,675	13,677	22,557	14,307	18,550
Lead	1,512	1,139	1,093	2,213	2,348	1,757
Tin Plates .....£	73,495	£130,183	£92,312	£150,830	£235,423	£176,067
Oil, Linseed, Hempseed, and Rapeseed ...galls.	473,122	254,609	212,950	424,910	548,954	732,775
Painters' Colours.....£	20,142	£19,466	£19,601	£37,533	£36,313	£32,597
Soap.....cwts.	11,975	12,069	13,570	25,367	28,295	20,892
Total value of exports...£	5,353,553	6,272,649	7,502,912	14,195,454	12,504,490	10,175,333

Such an export trade, in the face of a war which appeared as nearly as possible to be inevitable, is one of which any country might be proud, and of which the annals of commerce could furnish no example.

VALUABLE LEASEHOLD ESTATE, HEDWORTH FELL GATE, JARROW, DURHAM.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, on TUESDAY, the 2d day of May, 1854, at 2 for 3 o'clock in the afternoon, at the Queen's Head, Pilgrim-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne,

By MR. BROUGH,

A valuable LEASEHOLD ESTATE, desirably situated at Hedworth Fell Gate, in the Parish of Jarrow, in the County of Durham, comprising a substantial Farm House, with commodious Outbuildings, and two detached Cottages, all in good repair; a Shrubbery and Garden, well stocked with Fruit Trees; and 128 Acres or thereabouts of productive Arable, Pasture, and Meadow Land, in an excellent state of cultivation, in the occupation of Mr. Stothard.

The Property is held under the Dean and Chapt of Durham, under the usual renewable Lease at a small rent, and the Lease has been lately renewed. May be viewed on application to Mr. Stothard, and further information respecting it may be obtained at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, from Mr. ANTHONY NICHOL, Chemist and Druggist, 22, Quayside, where a Plan of the Estate may be seen, or from Mr. STOTHARD, on the Farm.

TO WILLIAM KELL, ESQ.

WE, the undersigned Attorneys and Solicitors, practising in the Borough of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, desire to convey to you the assurance that our confidence in your personal honour and professional character and ability continues unimpaired by the Resolution passed at the late Meeting of the Town Council of Gateshead.

11th April, 1854.

John Clayton	John Adamson
P. G. Ellison	John Fenwick
G. W. Stable	R. P. Philipson
P. H. Stanton	Ions Hewison
Henry Ingledew	Henry Wm. Fenwick
Cuthbert U. Laws	William Dunn
John Brown	T. Chater
Matthew Forster	T. W. Keenlyside
William Harle	William Daggett
Joseph Anderson	George Wm. Hodge
Robert Monro Allan	J. Theodore Hoyle
John Scaife	William Johnston
J. Clerevaulx Fenwick	Michael Allan
John George Brown	James Radford
George William Cram	Edward Glynn
William Chartres	R. R. Dees
Joseph Blacklock	Edward Mather
Edward Hall	Thomas Burnup
George Wailes	W. E. Brockett
Joseph Watson	L. M. Cockcroft
John Fleming	J. L. Forster
R. Y. Green	R. Lambert
J. B. Falconar, Jun.	Cooper Abbs
Mark L. Jobling	John Treeve Edgcome
Stephen Reed	Charles Murray Adamson
W. R. Swan	Thomas Dove

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, April 13, 1854.

MY DEAR KELL,—I have much pleasure in fowarding to you an expression of opinion on the part of the members of our profession in this town, which I think ought to be a source of pride to you.

I am, my dear Kell, ever yours faithfully,
JOHN FENWICK.

William Kell, Esq., Gateshead.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—It affords me the highest gratification to receive the assurance that I retain the good opinion of yourself and my other professional friends and brethren in Newcastle—an assurance given me at a time when its value must be enhanced, owing to the circumstances which have called it forth.

May I beg you to receive yourself, and to communicate to those who have so kindly associated themselves with you, the expression of my deep sense of the kindness and consideration which have prompted the proceeding.

I am, my dear Friend, always yours sincerely,
WILLIAM KELL.

John Fenwick, Esq., Newcastle.

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THE GATESHEAD TOWN-COUNCIL.

MAYOR.	COUNCILLORS	
†Haggie, David	Allhusen, Chris.	†Hewitt, James
ALDERMEN.	†Brinton, George	Hodgson, R. W.
†Cummins, T.	†Cook, William	Hunter, George
Hawks, George	Crawshay, E.	†Hymers, J. A.
Lister, John	Douglas, William	†Ionn, F. P.
Pearson, C. J.	Garbutt, C.	†Patterson, G.
†Robson, Joseph	†Gray, Alex. Geo.	†Skelton, John
†Smith, James	Haggie, Peter	†Vickers, John
		†Wilson, James

☞ Those marked (†) were present.

TOWNHALL, THURSDAY, APRIL 20.—A special meeting of the Council and Local Board of Health was held to-day, "to consider a letter to the Mayor from the Town Clerk announcing his intention to resign his office; to consider the expediency of riding the boundaries of the borough; and on the subject of a letter of Messrs. Ingledew & Daggett, demanding payment of the plaintiff's damages and costs, in the action of Septimus Anthony Cail *v.* The Mayor, Alderman, and Burgesses of the Borough of Gateshead."

Mr. W. H. D. LONGSTAFFE placed in the hands of the Mayor a letter, which, he said, had been given to him for that purpose by the late Town Clerk, with instructions to place his (Mr. L.'s) services at the disposal of the Council during the meeting.

The letter, addressed to the Mayor by Mr. Kell, has already appeared in our columns. It was accompanied by a formal letter to the Council and Local Board, resigning his offices of Clerk to the Board and Town Clerk.

The MAYOR, calling the attention of the meeting to the first business to be disposed of, arising out of the resignation of Mr. Kell, inquired if any member had anything to say on the subject.

Mr. Ald. ROBSON said, he thought that nothing need be said about the matter. He presumed that the only thing to be done was to accept the resignation, and he would move that it be accepted accordingly.

Mr. Ald. CUMMINS seconded the motion, and it was carried *nem. con.*

The MAYOR then observed that they must consider the appointment of a successor. The Mayor should not be kept without an adviser.

Mr. HEWITT: We must adjourn to an early day.

The MAYOR: And who must advise me in the interim?

Mr. Ald. CUMMINS: Any one whom you choose to consult, Mr. Mayor. It is not necessory, you know, that the Town Clerk should be a solicitor. So it must be open to the Mayor to consult a lawyer.

Mr. HYMERS: Can we not appoint a successor to-day?

The MAYOR: Yes, I believe so.

Mr. HEWITT and Mr. GRAY thought they had better have a special meeting for the purpose.

Mr. Ald. SMITH: We can hardly expect that Mr. Kell will be ready to deliver up the books and papers of the office in a day or a week. He must have some time.

Mr. LONGSTAFFE said, possession could be given at the close of the meeting, if necessary.

After some further conversation, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. ROBSON, seconded by Mr. BRINTON, that a special meeting be convened for Tuesday, the 25th inst., for the election of a Town Clerk and Clerk to the Local Board. Mr. COOK referred to the proper spirit in which Mr. Kell had resigned his office, and in which it had been accepted; and it was understood that, until the appointment of his successor, the Mayor should be at liberty to take advice in whatever quarter he chose.

Mr. COOK inquired, as the election was to be deferred to a special meeting, if the vacancy would be advertised. Some of the members thought it superfluous to do so; while Mr. Ald. SMITH asked how, otherwise, the vacancy was to become known. Mr. Ald. CUMMINS said he believed they had most of them been waited on already, by a gentleman who was willing to take the office, although, until it was vacant, he had not solicited their votes. The Council would no doubt have choice. The MAYOR thought it would be well to insert in the newspapers the resolution for convening a meeting to appoint a successor. Mr. Ald. ROBSON: It will be in the papers, never fear. Mr. COOK: But will it not be too bad to withhold an official advertisement on such an expectation? The MAYOR: We should live and let live. (The conversation dropped.)

The question of the Town Clerk's salary was brought under consideration by Mr. HEWITT, who thought the salaries of Clerk to the Board and Town Clerk had better be amalgamated. Mr. GRAY: They are paid out of separate funds. Mr. HEWITT: But they had better be made payable on the same day. Mr. LONGSTAFFE: That will necessarily be the case in future, inasmuch as the appointment to the two offices will be made at the same time. Mr. COOK inquired the joint-amount of the salaries. Mr. LONGSTAFFE said it was £180. Mr. COOK; Are there no other sources of emolument? Mr. LONGSTAFFE: None, save a small fee or two, which may or may not accrue in two or three years. Mr. Ald. CUMMINS thought that it might be well to make the salary include charges for legal services. Mr. COOK concurred: they had better double the salary than have the amount uncertain. Mr. Ald. CUMMINS referred to some printed statement of accounts, which he should like to have, and of whose existence he was not aware, until a copy of it was sent to a friend of his through the postoffice. It showed the amount of law charges. Mr. LONGSTAFFE said, any ratepayer could have a copy at the price fixed upon them by the Council (a penny), and, of course, being the property of the Council, they had full control over them themselves. Mr. Ald. SMITH said, he believed that no books in England were better kept than Mr. Kell's, and that, if the Council wished it, they could have an account of every shilling that had been spent from 1837 to the present time. Mr. Ald. CUMMINS said, he had not the slightest intention to disparage Mr. Kell's accounts, although Mr. Ald. Smith looked at him while he was speaking, as if he had been making the attempt. He was of the same opinion as Mr. Ald. Smith with respect to that gentleman's ability and accuracy. He was fully aware of the exact manner in which he kept his books. They would be a credit to him as long as the Council existed, and a pattern to his successor, whoever that gentleman might be. He had simply spoken of a statement of accounts, showing heavy law charges, which he had not seen when a gentleman received a copy by post. The MAYOR said, he believed that every member of the Council would adopt the remarks of Mr. Ald. Smith as to the manner in which the books of the Corporation were kept by Mr. Kell. (Applause.) He begged the

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meeting, however, to proceed with the business. Mr. Ald. CUMMINS moved the appointment of a committee to consider the salary and other arrangements in connection with the office of Town Clerk and Clerk to the Local Board; and at the suggestion of Mr. COOK, by whom the motion was seconded, it was referred to the committee to ascertain the amount of the late Town Clerk's charges for legal services during his tenure of office. Mr. CUMMINS said, he was told that the charges in connection with the River Commission alone amounted to nearly £400. The ratepayers thought they spent too much money over law, and he should like to see if they could not effect a saving under this head. Mr. HEWITT said, it would be well to ascertain from Mr. Kell if he had any outstanding claims. Mr. Ald. SMITH doubted if any gentleman would take the office if the salary were made to include law expenses. Mr. GRAY, who had at first doubted the necessity of appointing a committee, now concurred, and said it would be well if their report could be in the hands of the members on the day before the meeting. The motion was adopted as follows:—"That Mr. Ald. Smith, Mr. Gray, and Mr. Hymers, shall be, and are hereby appointed, a committee to consider what will be the best arrrangement respecting the salaries of the future Town Clerk and Clerk to the Local Board of Health; to return the amounts paid to the late Town Clerk for legal expenses during his tenure of office; and to report generally on the subject of the office."

The "expediency of riding the boundaries" was next considered. Mr. Ald. ROBSON thought that it was too soon to renew this ceremony. The boundaries were first perambulated in 1836; then on the 24th of May, 1849, thirteen years having elapsed; it was hardly necessay that they should repeat the ceremony in 1854. Mr. COOK: Especially as the cost in 1849 was nearly £100. — The question fell to the ground.

The damages and costs of the plaintiff in "Cail *v.* Corporation" now came before the meeting. It appeared that Griffith & Crighton, on the part of the Corporation, had seen to the taxing of the costs, and that the amount of Ingledew & Daggett's demand was—

Damages	£5	5	0
Costs as taxed	145	0	0
Total	£150	5	0

Mr. Ald. SMITH moved that a cheque be issued for payment of the amount out of the general district rate. Mr. Ald. ROBSON seconded the motion. Mr. COOK thought they should first have a bill of particulars, and moved an amendment to that effect: which was seconded by Mr. SKELTON. The MAYOR said, the account reached them through their own solicitors; and if those gentlemen had their confidence, why not discharge it at once? Mr. SKELTON said he had full confidence in them; but, in a matter of business, however honourable the person from whom he received a demand, he liked to have the particulars. Mr. GRAY said, their solicitors had received a bill of particulars; those particulars they had got taxed; and the Council could not escape the taxed costs. No practical good could arise from the amendment. Mr. COOK said he had no desire to escape the payment of what was justly due. It was simply as a matter of principle that he thought they ought to know for what they were paying. The MAYOR thought it was possible that if they delayed payment they might involve themselves in additional expense. The Council divided:—

For the Amendment, 5.—Alderman Cummins; and Councillors Cook, Patterson, Skelton, and Wilson.

Against it, 9.—The Mayor; Aldermen Smith and Robson; and Councillors Hewitt, Ionn, Brinton, Vickers, Hymers, and Gray.

The original motion was put, and carried by 9 to 5.

The meeting then broke up:—the Council to meet on Tuesday, April 25, to elect a successor to Mr. Kell.

GATESHEAD POOR-LAW UNION.

BOARD ROOM, APRIL 18.—The newly-elected Guardians assembled to-day for the first time. Present:—Messrs. Joseph Robson, T. C. Tomlin, George Brinton, Thomas Snowdon, J. B. Makepeace, J. E. Wilkinson, Joseph Anderson, W. Clark, Thomas Gallon, George Murray, William Cook, John Ramsay, Andrew Thompson, C. Garbutt, John Greene, R. W. Hodgson, John Sowerby, T. C. Angus, James Smith, R. S. Bagnall; with also (*ex-officio*) G. H. Ramsay, Esq., J.P.

The customary papers were laid on the table. 169 paupers, it appeared, were in the workhouse at the commencement of the previous fortnight, and 160 at its close, (including only one able-bodied person, a woman). In the first week of the fortnight, 2,073 had received outdoor relief, at a cost of £129 17s. 2d.; and 2,046 in the second week, at a cost of £119 6s.

Mr. JOHN GREENE moved, in complimentary terms, that Mr. Cornelius Garbutt — (who had been called upon to preside until a Chairman was chosen)—should be reëlected to the chair.

Mr. BRINTON seconded the nomination, and it was unanimously confirmed.

Mr. R. W. HODGSON moved the election of Mr. Joseph Robson as Vice-Chairman.

Seconded by Mr. JOHN SOWERBY.

Mr. TOMLIN moved the appointment of Mr. George Murray.

Seconded by Mr. WILLIAM CLARK.

The CHAIRMAN said, two gentlemen, in every way qualified for the office, had been put in nomination for the vice-chair. He did feel, however, that it was due to the late Vice-Chairman that he should propose his reëlection. It was, perhaps, an unusual thing for a Chairman to take such a step; but still, it was not irregular. He would therefore move that Mr. Wilkinson be elected to the office of Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. Mr. Greene, in proposing his (the Chairman's) reëlection, had been pleased to allude to his exertions during the epidemic, and to compliment him on the general efficiency of his services. If these encomiums were merited, he could assure the Board that it was very much owing to the energy and public spirit of Mr. Wilkinson. Feeling, then, that if he himself had any claim to reäppointment, the same claim existed in the case of his late colleague, he would move that Mr. Wilkinson be elected to the vice-chair.

After a pause, the CHAIRMAN, his nomination having no seconder, rose to take the decision of the Board. Mr. Tomlin's motion was first put; and the show of hands being against it, Mr. Hodgson's was then submitted, and Mr. Robson was elected to the office of Vice-Chairman.

Mr. GARBUTT and Mr. ROBSON returned thanks—the latter gentleman admonishing the assembled Guardians to be attentive and vigilant in the dis-

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charge of their trust. No one, he said, must consider himself the mere member of a day; it was not enough to attend this or that particular meeting; they must all attend regular, so that the work might be well done.

The standing orders were read over by Mr. Cook (who officiated as Clerk); and the whole of them were adopted anew.

The workhouse, finance, and garden and land committees were remodelled; and other routine business was transacted.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read; also eight notices of marriage.

The schedule of cheques proposed to be issued was read:—comprising £265 to the Relieving Officers; £51 15s. 8d. to the Clerk for the elections; also, registration, vaccination, and extra medical fees; with suudry other charges, the whole amount being £417 18s. 3d.

Mr. Cook read the fortnightly statement, from which it appeared that Heworth was £155 in arrears; Ryton Woodside, £60; Stella, £25; Whickham, £322 10s.; and Winlaton, £216 2s. 1d. Gateshead had paid £27 1s. of the call due April 25. The Treasurer's balance due the union was £705 1s. 3d., subject to deduction to the amount of the cheques.

Mr. Tomlin said, Heworth was represented to be in arrear. But why was this? Solely because no proper order had been made for payment of the money. Heworth was always prompt in payment of all lawful calls, and it was not right that it should go abroad in the newspapers that she was behindhand.

The Chairman said, the same order was made upon Heworth as in the cases of the other districts of the union. They might all of them have declined to meet the call on the same plea.

A short conversation ensued, on the calls and the orders, in which Mr. Tomlin, Mr. Ramsay, and the Chairman took part. There was, it appeared, some irregularity in the order.

A committee was appointed, on the motion of the Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr. T. C. Angus, to inspect the enclosing wall of the workhouse land, on the south, lately built by Mr. Pearson under contract, it appearing to be defective, and to report. Mr. Pearson, it seemed, alleged that the defect arose from injuries sustained after the wall was built, and for which he was not responsible.

Some other business was transacted, and the Board proceeded to the relief of the poor.

EASTER ELECTIONS.

St. Mary's, Gateshead.—The chair was taken on Tuesday, April 18, by the Rector, the Rev. Dr. Davies. There were also present:—Messrs. Joseph Robson, John Greene, George Hawks, R. W. Hodgson, Thomas Cummins, Philip Smith, C. J. Pearson, G. J. Kenmir, and John Sowerby. The accounts (which were satisfactory) were presented and received; and Messrs. Barras, Colman, and Pollock were appointed auditors. The vestry then proceeded to the election of churchwardens. The Rector reäppointed Mr. F. J. Crow. Mr. Jonathan Robson was then reëlected; and in the room of Messrs. Pearson and Smith (who wished to retire), the vestry (on the nomination of Mr. Hodgson, seconded by Mr. Pearson,) made choice of Mr. J. W. Swinburne and Mr. George Greene.—The churchwardens, with Messrs. G. Hawks and John Greene, were appointed to be a committee to ascertain the state of the organ, and have it repaired and improved, at an expense not exceeding a stipulated sum.—There was some conversation as to property at Easington and Hillgate, held in trust for charitable objects—the former by the Rector and Churchwardens, the latter by the Churchwardens only. That in Hillgate, it was stated, had been reduced by the tenants to a condition that could hardly be worsened by the Russians! On the motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Hawks, it was resolved, with many encomiums on the vestry clerk (Mr. S. E. Pearse, R.N.), that his annual fee be advanced from £10 to £15. Mr. Hodgson then moved a vote of thanks to the Rector, and the proceedings closed. In the afterpart of the day, the "churchwardens' dinner" brought together several of the principal gentlemen of the parish at the Grey Horse inn. Upwards of thirty sat down to table; and Mr. Richardson served up to them a dinner in whose favour even an ecclesiastical court must have pronounced judgment. The chair was taken by Alderman Pearson, one of the retiring churchwardens; and the vice-chair by his colleague, Churchwarden Smith. The member for the borough, Mr. Hutt, was present; also, Dr. Davies, Mr. Swinburne (churchwarden-elect), Aldermen Cummins, Smith, Lister, Robson, and Hawks, Councillors Gray, Hodgson, Ionn, Brinton, and Hewitt, and Messrs. Ramsay, Barras, Potts, Sowerby, Greene, Neville, Kenmir, Bennett, &c., &c.

THE NEWCASTLE RAGGED SCHOOLS.

GRAND BAZAAR.

The grandest of the "grand bazaars" that have been got up on the Tyne, came off, by appointment, on Wednesday and Thursday, April 19th and 20th, at the Assembly Rooms in Newcastle, in aid of the Building Fund of the Ragged School Society. We know that, in some quarters, objections are entertained towards bazaars:—as objections may be urged, on some grounds, even against Christian church-organizations. For our own part, we think a bazaar a very defensible, not to say commendable, mode of advancing a good and praiseworthy object. It interests a large number of persons in the cause of some public institution, and extends the circle of its friends; makes it more generally known; and yields a large amount of pleasurable excitement to the "honest men and bonny lasses" whom it brings into amiable coöperation and concert.

Never was there a more rich, gorgeous, or tasteful exhibition, than met the eye at noon on Wednesday, on entering the suite of rooms in Westgate-street selected for the bazaar. We are not going to attempt a description. Everybody is familiar with bazaars; and it is enough to say that the glories of this category of spectacles culminated at meridian on the 19th of April, 1854.

The decorative department had been admirably carried out, under the direction of the ladies, by Messrs. Sopwith of Northumberland-street. Good and seasonable use was made of the flags of England, France, and Turkey, blending in with the ornamentation of the room; and the bazaar opened with the national airs of this country and our allies.

An avenue of Nature's richest plants and flowers conducted the visitor to the temple of Art, where the Mayoress of Newcastle (Mrs. Ralph Dodds) occupied, as of right and courtesy, the post of honour at the head of the room, with the flag of Newcastle waving

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overhead. We also observed, in its vicinity, a banner bearing the arms of one of the late Mayors of Gateshead, whose motto—"Strike!"—conveyed to the ladies the appropriate admonition to "Strike—while the iron is hot." And they were not slow to profit by the hint. The stallkeepers were:—

1. Mrs. Mayoress, with Misses Walton, Milvain, Bulman, and Young.
2. Marchioness of Bute, Mrs. Westmacott, Miss Daglish.
3. Mrs. J. D. Weatherley, Misses Weatherley, Sawyer, and Armstrong.
4. Miss Richardson, Mrs. Lotherington, Mrs. Walker, Miss Wigham, Miss S. M. Wilson
5. Mrs. Nesham, Mrs. Henry Bell, Misses Nesham and Harrison.
6. Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. A. G. Gray, Mrs. Van Haansbergen.
7. Mrs. Chartres, Misses Chartres, Miss Milner, Miss Mary Dawson.
8. Mrs. W. Pringle, Mrs. Bennett, Miss Pringle, Miss Laidlaw.
9. Mrs. I. L. Bell, Mrs. Thomas Bell, Mrs. Bowman, Mrs. Newall.
10. Mrs. C. M. Palmer, Mrs. E. N. Grace, Miss F. Grace, Miss Robson.
11. Mrs. Drewry, Misses Drewry, Miss Robinson.
12. Mrs. Belfrage, Misses Belfrage, Robson, Hemsley, and Gardner.
13. Mrs. O'Brien, Misses Manners, Fitzroy, Frost, and Baker.
14. Mrs. Steavenson, Miss Maxwell, Miss Elmstie.
15. Mr. R. S. Newall and Mr. A. G. Gray, jun., (photographic stall).
16. Mrs. Ellen Richardson, Mrs. Waterfall, Miss Wilson, Miss Wake, (flowers and vases).
17. Mrs. Henry Brady, Misses Brady, Miss Turner, (refreshments).
18. Miss Sarah Forster, (poor stall).
19. Mistress of the Ragged School and two of the girls, (work done by the children).

All the stalls had their peculiar charms; nor were those of No. 17 the least attractive. Instead of taxing our own descriptive skill, and running the peril of appearing invidious, we will fall back upon the "in*stall*ation address" of the ladies, in which (by the mouth of their laureate) they said to their patrons:—

Ladies and Gentlemen of all Degree,
Whether you're D.C.L. and LL.D.,
Or boast no proud addenda of the colleges,
Which oft have err'd, as everyone acknowledges,
We bid you hearty welcome to our stalls,
And hope you'll favour us with numerous calls.
We shall not try your patience by reciting
The countless wonders here your view inviting;
The flowers that bloom in all the hues prismatic;
The lambswool hosiery for limbs rheumatic;
The waistcoats *vested* in unwonted splendours;
The whips that send a thrill through all offenders;
The cushions fit for after-dinner snoozes;
The caps that *bring* whate'er the buyer chooses;
The mats, the tidies, chemisettes, and photographs;
The dolls, the baskets, pinafores, and autographs;
The slippers sol(e)d for ease, and kettle-holders
That take by storm the hearts of all beholders.

The fair sirens, to lull the caution of their intended victims to sleep, artfully proceed:—

As we have heard the public have a notion
That we shall plunder here without emotion,
Thinking the cause of charity demands
Such unaccustomed robb'ry at our hands
We hereby with due modesty declare
Our sales—as we ourselves—shall all be *fair*.
Then, visitors, discard your apprehensions;
We mean to have no grumblings nor dissensions.
And though, perchance, you'll deem our conduct strange
We'll hand you back each fraction of your change;
So that not one who buys can have occasion
To cast a slur on our new avocation.
Indulgence we must beg, if in your service,
Anxiety to please should make us nervous;
You know we're novices, and cannot fill,
By coaxing words or winning ways, our till.

An old gentleman, on reading these lines after he and his money had been parted, uttered an "Ugh!" and "hoped, if the baggages were novices, they would never have practice to make them perfect!" But hark to the last words of the ladies:—

We have no subtle stratagems or arts
To bend stiff wills and melt obdurate hearts;
Unversed are we in soft persuasive wiles,
Nor can we pick your pockets by our smiles;
But, only confident of your approval,
Our posts we'll keep, and dream not of removal,
Till all our goods are sold, or, in a huff,
The treasurer himself cries—"Hold, enough!"

"Pick our pockets by their smiles!" echoed the elderly critic as he read:—they "smile and smile, and play the"—— His buxom wife clapped her hand upon his mouth, and said, if they *had* got his money, they had given him some very handsome things in return. "Handsome rubbish!" replied the beggared martyr, refusing to be comforted. To divert his mind, the old lady called his attention to the philanthropic object of the bazaar, and began to read the words of wisdom mediævally inscribed on the wall:—"Train up a child in"——

"Sixpence a piece," exclaimed the silver tongue of a pretty little belle, holding up a copy of verses: "only sixpence a piece."

The interruption disconcerted the matronly comforter, and her penniless spouse turned gruffly aside; but we patronized the Muses, and the reader shall judge if our sixpence was well spent. We give the verses, with also one or two interjections that met our ear at the time:—

Come away! come away! to the Ragged Bazaar!
Contribute your mite with the wealthy and wise,
To help on the cause of the houseless and hungry,
And lessen the ills that around us arise.

We are taught, by the beautiful precepts of Christ,
The naked to clothe and the hungry to feed:
Then liberally aid, with both heart and hand,
In supplying the wants of the helpless who need.

Here the ladies have spared neither time nor expense,
To increase the result of this Christian scheme;
For they're helpmates indeed, where there's good to be done;
They're blessings to man—they're humanity's cream.
(Paterfamilias, grumphily:—They've creamed me.

There are suitable wares for each state and condition,
Then purchase as far as your means will allow,
(Stallkeeper, coaxingly:—And a little farther.
For the liberal support of this ragged petition
Will pleasant and happy reflections give you.

The "ragged petition" was responded to as liberally as its benevolent author could have wished; and everybody—save Grumphy—submitted with exemplary self-sacrifice to the suit of the ladies, whose splendid wares were fashioned, by emphatic antithesis, to redress the wrongs and the wretchedness of the ragged, and the too-long rejected and outcast.

Bazaars are always provocative of poesy. E. W. C., the author of the "Lomonds," (a poem which produced far on to a £10 note for the Cholera Relief Fund,) came forward, with the writers of the "installation address" and the "ragged petition," to aid with his pen the cause of charity, and contributed "A Dish of Charades" to the "Table of Mrs. Mayoress."

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Here is a sample of the dish, suggested by the present moustache and poultry movements :—

Contracted, and yet plural, is my first.
My last is lower'd when you slake your thirst.
Sometimes 'tis smooth, though quite as often rough;
And seldom—indeed, never—"up to snuff."
'Tis yellow, red, black, brown, as often grey;
And causes serious thoughts in this our day.
Entire, I am abbreviate for a bird,
At present fetching prices most absurd.

A fair, and yet a fowl charade; which reminds us of a desperate punster whom we met in the refreshment-room, labouring to forge a joke out of the "Fancy *Fair*" and its "*Fowl* Play;" while a more practical customer was thinking he could "fancy fowl" at Mrs. Brady's board.

The operation of ridding the company of their cash was performed to music; but the gentlemen of the orchestra will pardon us if we say, that we preferred, amidst the crush and hum of the bazaar, the unexpected solo of a caged canary.

So ready are our countrymen and countrywomen to pay voluntary taxes for worthy ends, that, despite the Chancellor of the Exchequer's doubled per centage on income, the Assembly Rooms were crowded with customers; and almost the only difficulty encountered in carrying on the bazaar was in the struggle of intending purchasers who should first get at the stalls with their subsidies!

THE RAGGED SCHOOL BAZAAR.—The gross receipts of the bazaar of April 19 and 20, held in the Assembly Rooms, Newcastle, were even greater than we last week ventured to state, when the accounts were not fully made up. The sums taken at the several stalls were :—

		£	s.	d.
1.	Mrs. Mayoress	148	13	6
2.	Marchioness of Bute	84	8	10
3.	Mrs. Weatherley	22	16	2
4.	Miss Ann Richardson	136	19	2
5.	Mrs. Nesham	43	17	11
6.	Mrs. Anderson	63	0	6
7.	Mrs. Chartres	53	0	0
8.	Mrs. Pringle	63	9	0
9.	Mrs. I. L. Bell	150	4	0
10.	Mrs. C. M. Palmer	169	10	10
11.	Mrs. Drewry	70	2	0
12.	Mrs. Belfrage	78	11	3
13.	Mrs. O'Brien	105	11	4
14.	Mrs. Steavenson	88	12	4
15.	Plant Stall	19	13	0
16.	Poor Stall	36	10	0
17.	Refreshment Stall	37	0	0
18.	Ragged School Stall	5	2	8
	Single Admissions	198	6	6
	Season Tickets	29	0	0
		£1,604	9	0

The expenses, we believe, will be covered by the admission monies. The building fund, therefore, will be swelled by the bazaar to the extent of about £1,400. A site for the building has been given by the Corporation; and Mr. Dobson has furnished a design and plans gratuitously. Miss Coulson, of Blenkinsopp Castle, and Mrs. Bewicke, of Close House, have each sent a donation to the fund of £5. We omitted to state, in our notice of last week, that the excellent lemonade and soda water, which went off so briskly at Mrs. Brady's stall, were supplied by our neighbour, Mr. H. L. Munro.

THE NEW UNITARIAN CHURCH IN NEWCASTLE.—The opening services of the church in New Bridge-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, erected by the Hanover-square congregation, were continued on Easter Sunday, the 16th April. The Rev. R. B. Aspland, of Dukinfield, preached in the morning, from Hebrews ii. 8, "We see not yet all things put under him"—his object being to show that the moral and spiritual dominion of Christ, although still imperfect, was growing and extending, and destined to be universally triumphant. He contrasted the fallen empire of the Stagyrite—the favourite of Philip of Macedon, the tutor and friend of Alexander the Great—with that of the lowly Nazarene; and, enumerating the conquests of Jesus, past and prospective, he said he would not be deterred, by the present aspect of Europe, from classing among the trophies yet to be won by Christianity the establishment of the reign of Peace—the burning of the chariots of War; for when had statesmen striven so long and so anxiously to avoid recourse to arms? When had Governments, so well prepared for hostilities, laboured so patiently, under the influence of Christian sentiment, for a peaceful solution of an international question? The Western Powers had exhausted every means for the preservation of Peace, and only blew the dissonant trumpet-blast of War to avert a more terrible evil—to frustrate the ambitious objects of the most barbarous despotism that ever deluged Europe. In the course of his sermon, he alluded to the beautiful memorial window behind him; which, he said, had been made, with great propriety, emblematic of the one great truth of the Gospel—the resurrection of Christ from the dead—a fact that threw, like its painted emblem, a softened yet glorious light into the spiritual temple.—The afternoon discourse was delivered by the Rev. Edward Tagart, of London, (from 1 John, i. 8, 9,) who recapitulated the objects to which the new church had already been dedicated, and said, one more remained—its dedication, namely, to penitence and amendment—to resistance of temptation, and to victory over its power.—In the evening, the Rev. Dr. Montgomery, of Dunmurry, Belfast, was the preacher, and took for his text the words of Scripture—Psalm xcii. 1, and Hebrews xii. 6. From these passages he discoursed of the government of God, and reconciled His benevolence with the existence in the world of that sinfulness on which Mr. Tagart had dwelt, and of the "lamentations, and mourning, and woe," written in the "roll of a book" that was sent to Ezekiel. In the course of his sermon the doctor alluded to the godlike experiment now being tried in Newcastle of a Reformatory School for Juvenile Criminals, and prayed that it might be crowned with signal success. The church was so crowded that it was found necessary to throw aside the partition below, and make use of the school. The opening services will close to-morrow (Sunday, April 23), when the preachers are to be the Rev. Samuel Bache, of Birmingham, and the Reverend Thomas Hincks, of Sheffield.

The Revds. Samuel Bache (Birmingham) and Thomas Hincks (Sheffield) preached the concluding sermons, on Sunday, April 30, in the new place of worship of the Newcastle Unitarians; and in the evening, the Rev. George Harris intimated the aggregate amount of the collections to be £301 9s. The organ was played by Mr. Ions, jun., in the morning; and by Mr. Middleton Redshaw in the evening. The frequent inquiry, "who played the organ?" attested the satisfaction given by these rising organists.

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THE GATESHEAD TOWN-COUNCIL.

MAYOR.	COUNCILLORS	
†Haggie, David	Allhusen, Chris.	†Hewitt, James
ALDERMEN.	†Brinton, George	†Hodgson, R. W.
†Cummins, T.	†Cook, William	Hunter, George
†Hawks, George	†Crawshay, E.	†Hymers, J. A.
†Lister, John	†Douglas, William	†Ionn, F. P.
†Pearson, C. J.	Garbutt, C.	†Patterson, G.
†Robson, Joseph	†Gray, Alex. Geo.	†Skelton, John
†Smith, James	Haggie, Peter	†Vickers, John
		†Wilson, James

☞ Those marked (†) were present.

TOWNHALL, TUESDAY, APRIL 25.—The Council met this day, specially, to elect a Town Clerk in the room of Mr. Kell, resigned.

Mr. HALL, the Town Surveyor, at the request of the Council, took the minutes of the proceedings.

Mr. Ald. HAWKS rose and proposed that Mr. George Johnson Kenmir, as a fit and proper person, be elected to fill the vacant offices of Town Clerk and Clerk to the Local Board of Health. They all knew Mr. Kenmir well; he had been born and brought up amongst them; he had been a resident in the borough all his life; and it must therefore be perfectly unnecessary to say one single word in recommending him to the favour of the Council. He occupied a deservedly high position as a lawyer; and a more honourable, upright gentleman did not exist. He filled for some years the office of Clerk to the Borough Justices, and very much they regretted his resignation. He was now more at liberty, and, if elected, would gladly accept the present vacancy. He trusted, then, that Mr. Kenmir would be elected—and elected unanimously.

Mr. R. W. HODGSON seconded the nomination. Mr. Kenmir was a man of integrity, ability, and straightforwardness, and, he believed, would make an excellent public servant.

There being no other nomination, the MAYOR took a show of hands, and declared Mr. Kenmir to have been unanimously and duly elected.

An inquiry was made whether the Committee appointed on the 20th inst. had any report to make.

Mr. HODGSON doubted, if, looking at the terms of the notice convening the meeting, they could transact any other business beyond the simple election of a successor to Mr. Kell.

Mr. Ald. CUMMINS said, when he entered the room the election was in progress, and he naturally concluded that, as the Council appointed the Committee with an express reference to the election, this report had been presented. He certainly thought that ought to have been the first business.

The MAYOR said, it was a pity Mr. Ald. Cummins had not come earlier, and kept them right.

Mr. Ald. HAWKS inquired where the Committee and the report were? He knew nothing of any report. When he rose to nominate Mr. Kenmir, there was no mention of anything of the kind, and he had no idea he was at all irregular.

Mr. Ald. SMITH rose and said, the Committee had gone over the books, and found them very correct indeed. They had not had time to go minutely into details, or to prepare a written report, but they had ascertained that Mr. Kell had received, from the time of his election in 1836 down to the close of the last quarter, £2,200 10s. as salary, and that the law charges did not exceed £1,130, or about £63 a-year. Considering that in these charges were included travelling expenses, cost of stamps, fees to counsel for opinions, and other monies out of pocket, the sum was extraordinarily small.

Mr. Ald. ROBSON thought it would be unnecessary to go more into detail at the present meeting. He would propose that they have time allowed them to procure further information, and that they should report at a future meeting.

Mr. GRAY agreed with Mr. Robson. The Committee had not had time to complete the inquiry.

Mr. HYMERS said, on examination, the law expenses had proved to be much less heavy than had previously been supposed. The books were very clear and correct, having been kept in a most creditable manner. The Treasurer had afforded the Committee every information in his power; and if more time were allowed, a detailed report could be prepared and presented.

Mr. Ald. HAWKS inquired why they should go back into the accounts of the last twenty years? Was there any idea of calling upon Mr. Kell to refund?

The MAYOR said, certainly not. It was simply for their guidance as to the future that the inquiry was instituted.

Mr. HAWKS thought they had better decide at once on what terms Mr. Kenmir should hold the two offices.

Mr. Ald. PEARSON said he was quite sure they would get no man to serve them if the salary were made to include law charges.

Mr. HEWITT said, he never had any idea of such an arrangement. What he had suggested, at the last meeting, was that the salaries of the two offices should be paid at the same time, and that so many different items should not appear in the accounts.

Mr. HODGSON: That must necessarily be the case now, because the appointment to the two offices is made on the same day. It was not so before, because the appointments were separate, and made at different periods of the year. As to any notion that information was to be got guiding them to an arrangement under which a fixed sum would cover all charges, that was quite preposterous. Mr. Pearson had justly said that no gentleman would serve them on such terms. How could he? He hoped they would be involved in no more law proceedings, but no man could read the future, and it was not to be expected that their Clerk would fight with uncertainties.

Mr. A. G. GRAY said, the inquiry arose out of a conversation as to the periods of payment, which led on to the subject of law expenses, and it was an instruction to the committee to inquire into those expenses from the first election of the Council. They must all feel, whatever the precise object of the inquiry, that the information which it had elicited was highly satisfactory. The annual law charges had been remarkably small. That no more than from £60 to £70 per year had been expended, was without parallel in England, in the case of any municipal corporation of equal importance. It never entered into the heads of the Committee, he was quite sure, to recommend that the salary of the Clerk should include law charges.

Mr. Ald. SMITH said, from 1836 to 1845, the salary was £80 a-year; to 1848, £110; and to the present time, £180.

The conversation ended in a motion, moved by Mr. SKELTON, seconded by Mr. Ald. LISTER, and unanimously adopted, that the salary be the same as heretofore.

Mr. Ald. PEARSON observed, that the following day—Wednesday, April 26—was to be observed as a

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day of prayer and humiliation; and he had been requested by the Rector to say that he should be happy to see them at St. Mary's church. He moved that they go to church in procession.

Seconded by Mr. Ald. CUMMINS, and agreed to.

The meeting broke up.

CAIL *v.* CORPORATION OF GATESHEAD. — A correspondent has handed us the following statement of the expenses in this case :—

Costs of plaintiff	£145	0	0
Costs of defendants	275	14	8
Damages	5	5	0
	£425	19	8

He expresses some surprise that the defence should have been comparatively so costly; but "probably (he says) the matter will be explained at the Council meeting of Wednesday next."

THE QUEEN'S HEAD INN, GATESHEAD.—On Saturday, April 22, Miss Murray, of the Half Moon inn, received her friends, for the first time, at her new establishment, the Queen's Head, rebuilt for her especial occupation, and comprising an extent of accommodation far beyond what she possessed in the inn which she is now quitting. Far on to a hundred gentleman sat down to dinner—Mr. Alderman Robson presiding, and Mr. John Davidson, the enterprising owner of the inn, filling the vice-chair. The company partook of "ordinary" fare: — that is, the ordinary fare of the Half Moon, than which no reasonable man would ever wish for better.

THE GATESHEAD TOWN-COUNCIL.

MAYOR.	COUNCILLORS	
†Haggie, David	Allhusen, Chris.	†Hewitt, James
ALDERMEN.	†Brinton, George	†Hodgson, R. W.
†Cummins, T.	†Cook, William	†Hunter, George
†Hawks, George	†Crawshay, E.	Hymers, J. A.
Lister, John	†Douglas, William	Ionn, F. P.
†Pearson, C. J.	Garbutt, C.	†Patterson, G.
†Robson, Joseph	Gray, Alex. Geo.	Skelton, John
†Smith, James	Haggie, Peter	†Vickers, John
		†Wilson, James

☞ Those marked (†) were present.

TOWNHALL, WEDNESDAY, MAY 3.—*Quarterly Meeting.*—The TOWN CLERK (Mr. J. G. KENMIR) read the minutes of previous meetings.

Two or three appeals against payment of rates were heard and dismissed.

Mr. William Harrison entered the room, and presented a memorial, having about a dozen signatures, praying to be protected from the nuisance of the manure manufactory in Hillgate. He said it was a horrible nuisance, and very injurious to him in his business, by injuring his goods, his bread being returned to him offensive from manure.

There was a warm expression of concurrence in the judgment pronounced by the memorialists, and of surprise that the Magistrates had given a contrary decision.

Mr. HODGSON moved that the matter be again brought before the Bench, with a view to an abatement of the nuisance.

Seconded by Mr. BRINTON.

Mr. COOK moved, as an amendment, that the Surveyor be instructed to wait on the occupier of the premises, to see if some arrangement could not be made to remedy the evil complained of.

Seconded by Mr. WILSON.

The amendment was negatived by 8 to 6, and the original motion adopted.

The TOWN CLERK presented a routine report from the Parliamentary, Railway, and Byelaw Committee, which was received and confirmed.

The TOWN CLERK read a report from the Finance Committee. The Treasurer's cash-book presented a balance in hand of £1,181 12s. 8d. Accounts ordered to be paid amounted to £125 13s. 8d., reducing the balance to £1,055 19s. The Churchwardens and Overseers had wholly paid the borough rate to February 1, 1854. The new collector (Mr. Fairs) had paid watch rate to the amount of £45 4s. 4d., and borough rate £112 13s. 7d. The current expenses of the quarter were estimated at £400. The payment of £1,000 in discharge of the mortgage-debt on the Townhall was required to be arranged; and it was proposed to reduce the amount to £500. Under these circumstances it was recommended that a borough-rate of twopence in the pound should now be levied — (one penny in aid of the watch rate and one penny on the general account)—to be made payable on the 1st of August. The bill of costs of the defendants in "Cail *v.* Corporation" had been referred to Mr. Alderman Robson and Mr. Councillor Hodgson, with instructions to examine it, and, with the Town Clerk, to confer with the defendants' solicitors, Messrs. Griffith & Crighton — ask explanations — and ascertain if some reduction could not be made. Those gentlemen had reported that morning. They had seen Mr. Crighton, who stated that the case of the Corporation had been got up with much labour and care; that the outlay incurred on the part of the Corporation had been much greater than on the part of the plaintiff; that the extent of written and verbal evidence with which the Corporation case had to be supported caused the briefs to be large, and rendered the retaining of three counsel needful; that the expense of the special jury was borne exclusively by the Corporation; that the under-sheriff and jury's fees on coming from Durham to Gateshead to view the road in question were also borne exclusively by the Corporation; and, in short, that the cash paid out of pocket by the Corporation solicitors amounted to a larger sum than the whole bill of costs, as taxed, of the plaintiff's solicitors. Mr. Crighton, who furnished every information, regretted that the bill of costs was so heavy; but, from the expense and labour bestowed, it was inevitably so. The charges were framed to meet taxation, if the Corporation deemed such a course proper, their professional services being barely recompensed; the firm were willing to have their bill taxed; they would themselves, however, to meet the matter, and show respect to the application, reduce the balance due from £155 18s. 4d. to £140 :—not as an acknowledgment of the bill having been overcharged, but in the expectation of avoiding any unpleasantness in the final settlement of the costs of the suit.—The subcommittee, personally cognizant of the very great labour given by the firm, thought the considerate offer now made ought to be accepted, and the affair terminated.—The committee, having received this report, agreed to recommend the Council to make payment of the reduced balance of £140 out of the general district fund. They also recommended that £5 be paid to the Treasurer, out of the borough rate, as one year's salary due March 9.

The report having been received, it was stated, in reply to Mr. COOK, that the Treasurer's salary,

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altogether, was £20, but only £5 was payable on account of the borough rate.

From a conversation, originated by Mr. HODGSON, it appeared that the collection would be simplified if the borough-rate were to be levied from the end of June, and the rates would be more intelligible to those who had to pay them. To effect this object, it was at first contemplated that a rate should be made for six weeks or two months, but Mr. HEWITT suggested that no rate at all should be required for that period. They were, he said, in a good position to make the sacrifice—never better; and he moved the confirmation of the report of the Finance Committee, subject to this modification. Mr. HODGSON seconded the motion, and highly complimented Mr. Fairs on his collection of the rates, which had placed them in their advantageous position. The motion was unanimously adopted.

The costs in "Cail *v.* Corporation," it was stated in reply to Mr. COOK, would be borne by the whole property of the borough, the general district rate and the poor-rate being coëxtensive.

Mr. Ald. SMITH moved that the mortgage debt of £1,000 on the Townhall be discharged, and that the loan of £500, offered through Mr. Alderman Robson, be accepted.

Seconded by Mr. BRINTON, and carried.

The TOWN CLERK read a report from the Public Health Committee. Mr. Thomas Bell had decided, as arbitrator between Mr. Cook and the Corporation, that if Mr. Cook placed a wall on his western boundary, at the south end of the Stoneyflat carriage road, the outside of such wall must be placed in the line of the stems of his present fence. Having examined the plan of the Surveyor for the drainage of the eastern district, and read the written details of the work, the committee recommended that the same, if approved, be sent to Mr. Austin, of the General Board of Health, in reply to his request for the complete particulars of the proposed work. The report dealt with several routine matters, and, among other things, recommended the disapproval of a plan of new streets at Bensham, in consequence of defective width and general unsuitable arrangements.

The report was received.

Mr. Ald. PEARSON, in moving that the Surveyor's plans, &c., be sent up to Mr. Austin, said they did great credit to Mr. Hall, who was much to be commended for the pains which he had bestowed upon them.

Seconded by Mr. Ald. HAWKS, and agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. HODGSON, seconded by Mr. Ald. SMITH, the report was confirmed.

Mr. Ald. CUMMINS gave notice of a motion for an increase of the Treasurer's salary.

Adjourned to June 7.

GATESHEAD POOR-LAW UNION.

BOARD ROOM, TUESDAY, MAY 2.—Present:—The Chairman and Vice-Chairman; G. H. Ramsay, Esq., J.P.; F. J. Crow, Esq., J.P.; and Messrs. Clark, Makepeace, Murray, Tomlin, Greene, Cook, Simpson, Sowerby, Smith, Hodgson, Brinton, and Ramsay (John).

Mr. COOK (for the Clerk) read the minutes.

Cheques were issued to the amount of £324 4s. 9d., including £135 to Mr. Pattison, £50 to Mr. Sill, £30 to Mr. Ozwald, and £60 to Mr. Hall.

The fortnightly returns showed that 2,043 persons had received outdoor relief in the first week of the fortnight, and 2,025 in the second, £16 19s. having been administered in money and £232 4s. 6d. in kind. There were 160 paupers in the workhouse at the commencement and close of the fortnight.

The arrears of calls due were stated to be — Gateshead, £522 19s.; Heworth, £141 13s. 5d.; Chopwell, £12 10s.; Ryton Woodside, £21; Stella, £14 15s.; Whickham, £501 0s. 6d; and Winlaton, £378 12s. 1d. The Treasurer had a balance in hand of £688 16s. 2d., being £364 11s. 5d. in excess of the cheques.

Some remarks were made on the extent of the arrears, and especially in respect to Whickham and Winlaton—in which quarters, said Mr. HODGSON, a hint should be given. Mr. RAMSAY replied in their behalf; and the CHAIRMAN observed that, at the present season, there was some excuse, as the new Churchwardens and Overseers were just coming into office, and had not had time to collect the rates. Mr. GREENE having spoken in support of prompt collection and payment, Mr. RAMSAY moved that the collectors generally be summoned to the next meeting; which motion was seconded by Mr. HODGSON, and carried *nem. con.* Arising out of a remark made during the discussion, as to the absence of Mr. Ramsay from some meeting, it was resolved that whenever meetings were summoned by circular, *ex officio* Guardians should receive notices in common with the rest, and also that they should be placed on the committees—Mr. Ramsay to be a member of the Finance Committee, and Mr. Crow of the Workhouse Committee — all the committees, however, being open to every member of the Board.

A letter was read from Mr. Foreman, Clerk of the Union, resigning his office on the ground of ill health, and expressing his gratitude for the kindness and confidence of the Board. He proposed to hold the appointment, with the permission of the Guardians, until the end of the quarter in June, after the audit, as the most convenient time for a change; which Mr. RAMSAY thought a very reasonable proposal; and the VICE-CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ald. ROBSON), in moving the acceptance of the resignation, proposed that the new election be made that day six weeks. Seconded by Mr. HODGSON, and carried. Mr. COOK stated, in reply to inquiries, that Mr. Foreman intended to retain the office of Superintendent-Registrar. Mr. MAKEPEACE advocated the payment of the Clerk by a salary to cover the cost of elections. He thought it objectionable that he should receive a farthing per ratepayer in every case of a contested election—a mode of payment holding out an inducement to the getting up of uncalled-for contests. Mr. RAMSAY said it would be as well to ascertain, by another meeting, how much such contests had cost. The CHAIRMAN said, the information was already on the table as to the elections of the present year, the payments to the Clerk having amounted to £51 15s. 8d. Mr. RAMSAY thought, with Mr. Makepeace, that a change was advisable, and stated that a contest had arisen in Winlaton, after it was understood there would be none, through a nomination made by an assistant-overseer of another part of the union. He had remonstrated with the officer; and his excuse was, that it was in retaliation of a contest got up in Stella. (Laughter.) The CHAIRMAN said, in reply to a Guardian, that the act of parliament prescribed the mode of taking the elections, and an order of the Poor Law Board fixed the scale

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of remuneration. Contests or not, he added, the Clerk received £7 odd for his services in connection with the annual elections. After some further conversation, the VICE-CHAIRMAN moved a resolution to the effect that the Board be requested to sanction the payment of the Clerk by an annual salary of £120, inclusive of his services at elections. Seconded by Mr. MAKEPEACE, and carried.

Mr. MAKEPEACE put the question whether a Guardian could sit for two places? Mr. HODGSON said, he supposed he could, if he were duly elected, and were willing to do double duty. Mr. MAKEPEACE said, he thought that one of the two seats should be resigned. He believed that such a thing as one Guardian sitting for two places was unparalleled in England. Mr. HODGSON said, a ratepayer doubly elected was highly honoured, and perhaps such cases did not often occur. Mr. SIMPSON, in reference to a remark that if the ratepayers were satisfied, the Guardians need not interfere, emphatically declared that they were quite satisfied with Mr. Cook in the West, and had no desire for a change. Mr. TOMLIN said, Mr. Cook had stood for three places and was elected for two. He thought the Commissioners should be requested not to allow any ratepayer to be nominated out of his own parish. Contests were got up for no benefit that Heworth was to gain. Mr. COOK said, if Mr. Tomlin were so fascinated with the office of Guardian, it was a pity that the law did not appoint him permanently. But, so long as the law remained as it was, he was afraid the ratepayers must be allowed to nominate such eligible candidates as they chose. He (Mr. Cook) was a ratepayer of Heworth, and had just as much right to be nominated as Mr. Tomlin; and as to contested elections, whenever they occurred he bore his share of the cost in common with every other ratepayer. Mr. TOMLIN said, Mr. Cook got up contests. One Thomas Smith, who was connected with a building society that met in Mr. Cook's house, nominated a seventh candidate at Mr. Cook's instigation, after six had already been agreed upon, and thus produced a contest. Mr. COOK denied the truth of the statement:—it was not correct. Mr. TOMLIN said, he only stated what Smith had repeatedly asserted. The man had apologized in public company for what he had done. The conversation dropped.

A letter was read from the Poor Law Board, to which Mr. Brown, of Winlaton, surgeon, had appealed against the refusal of the Guardians to allow his bill for medical services during the cholera epidemic. The Board had told him that they could not interfere. The Winlaton Guardians now recommended that he should have £5. No motion was founded on the Winlaton recommendation, it being considered unadvisable to reopen the question of the medical bills.

Some other business was transacted, and the Board proceeded to the relief of the poor.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT AT LAMESLEY. — On May 16th, J. M. Favell, Esq., held an inquest at the Ravensworth Arms inn, Lamesley, on the body of James Hume, aged 25, footman at Ravensworth Castle. On the previous Sunday, the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. T. Liddell were about to return from morning service. The deceased was ascending the carriage, when he slipped his foot and fell to the ground. His boot heel having become entangled, he was dragged several yards; and before the horses could be stopped, he sustained severe injury on the back part of the neck, producing dislocation. He was also bruised in various parts of the body. Immediately the carriage was brought to a stand, Mr. Liddell alighted, and had the unfortunate young man conveyed to the Ravensworth Arms—Mrs. Liddell taking prompt measures to secure medical aid from Whickham. The Rev. R. H. Williamson, the incumbent, with Mr. Liddell, remained with deceased till he expired, about three-quarters of an hour after the accident. Mr. Steavenson, surgeon, of Whickham, shortly arrived, but could be of no service. The deceased was a native of Netherwitton, whither a messenger was sent to his bereaved parents with the sad intelligence. He had only been at the castle five weeks, being previously of Nunnykirk. Verdict, "Accidental Death." Lord Ravensworth, the venerable master of the deceased, on hearing of the sad catastrophe, was much affected.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, GATESHEAD FELL. — This church was reopened on May 21, after being repaired and cleaned. Sermons were preached on the occasion by the Rev. R. H. Williamson, incumbent of Lamesley, to numerous congregations, and collections made amounting to £18 17s. 4d. It is gratifying to witness the attention which is bestowed on the work of education in connection with this church, and the care with which the children are trained to assist in the chants and the psalmody.

GATESHEAD POOR LAW UNION.

BOARD ROOM, TUESDAY, MAY 16.—Present:—The Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and Messrs. Clark, Makepeace, Anderson, Cook, Smith, and Brinton.

Mr. COOK read the minutes of the previous meeting. Also, a note from Mr. Wardle, the architect, stating, as to the faulty wall at the union workhouse, that Mr. Pearson had rebuilt a portion of it, and it was now satisfactory.

The returns laid on the table showed that, in the first week of the preceding fortnight, 2,358 persons had received outdoor relief, amounting to £142 13s. 8d., and in the second week 2,347, amounting to £133 18s. 7d., (the numbers relieved in the corresponding weeks of 1853 being respectively 2,018 and 1,988, and the cost £127 11s. 3d. and £117 2s. 1d.) There were 160 paupers in the union workhouse at the commencement of the fortnight, and 155 at its close.

Cheques were issued to the amount of £803 5s. 3d., the balance in the hands of the Treasurer being £1,694 7s. 9d., or £891 2s. 6d. in excess of the cheques. Gateshead, it appeared, had paid £117 1s. in advance, towards the *next* call; Heworth, £13 6s. 7d.; Chopwell, £12 10s.; Crawcrook, £1 14s. 6d.; Ryton Woodside, £20; Stella, 5s. Whickham was £234 in arrear; and Winlaton, £191 12s. 1d.

Pursuant to the resolution of the previous meeting, the collectors of rates were in attendance. Some little explanation "made things pleasant" for the whole of them, until the Guardians came to Whickham. To account for the Whickham arrears, it was stated that, through some misunderstanding, too small a rate had been imposed. Next came Winlaton—where, also, too small a rate had been imposed. The collector said, there was a notion amongst them that they had a parochial balance standing to the good, and therefore a small rate would suffice. The Chairman said,

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the notion was fallacious. Winlaton and Whickham stood in precisely the same position as every other district in the union. Credit was always given for the balances in making the calls, and there was no foundation for the plea now urged by the churchwardens and overseers. The collector said, it was not churchwardens and overseers only who held the notion, but also *ex officios*. The Chairman said, it was an erroneous one, whoever held it; and an extra rate must be laid to meet the call. He spoke under correction of the Board, but he believed they would support him in saying, that if the money were not paid forthwith, steps would be taken to enforce the law.

The Board proceeded to the relief of the poor.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE STRAKER.

One of our most aged townsmen, Mr. George Straker, of Catherine-terrace, expired on Saturday, May 13th, in the 85th year of his age, from decay of nature, the deceased having enjoyed almost unbroken good health during the whole course of his long existence. He was a native of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where he was born at the North Shore, in September, 1769, of humble parents. The riverside being his playground, he early became familiar with shipping, and expert in climbing the rigging; and in afterlife, one of his favourite themes was the importance of having a mast and rigging erected in connection with every public school, that the youth of this maritime country might acquire in sport those habits which would fit them for the merchant or naval service, and incline them (as it did him) to choose the vocation of a mariner. He lived to see this, in common with others of his suggestions of public policy, very generally accepted and approved by his countrymen.

Mr. Straker was many years at sea, and became, from a commander, an owner of vessels; nor, when he retired from a seafaring life, was he less successful as a farmer and grazier. He held land at Hillhead, under Lord Ravensworth; and also, subsequently, at Gloucester Lodge, near Seaton Delaval. A picture of his prize-ox (which ox he publicly exhibited both in this country and in Ireland) was not a less-treasured ornament of his walls, than any "painted ship" which he possessed "upon a painted ocean."

The latter years of Mr. Straker's life were passed in Newcastle and Gateshead. In the year 1838 he was invited by 182 of the burgesses of St. Nicholas's ward, in the former borough, to become a candidate for its representation in the town-council. He accepted the invitation, and was returned without a contest. He remained in office six years, marked by ceaseless activity in the performance of his public duties, and by many stormy debates, long to be remembered by his colleagues. On his retirement in 1844, a subscription was set on foot in the ward for the purchase of a testimonial; and a silver salver was presented to him in 1845, "in testimony of their admiration of the zeal, perseverance, and integrity with which, while a town-councillor, he defended the rights and interests of his fellow-townsmen."

Owing to defective education in early life, the deceased lacked the full use and benefit of his great natural endowments. He was what is commonly called "a strong-minded man;" but the culture which would have qualified him skilfully and effectively to have controlled and directed his mental powers, was wanting; and, as is not uncommonly the case with such original men, there was more of fire and force in his efforts in debate, than of successful service. As a politician, he was long in advance of his age. In letters to public men and to newspapers, he advocated free trade, the abolition of the embargo system, the repeal of the duty on sea indentures and other salutary measures, now recognized in our State policy. It is also to his honour that he was the first donor to the Master Mariners' Asylum, and one of the originators of the Society for the Relief of the Widows and Orphans of Shipwrecked Mariners.

When Chartism was rampant in the land, and the deceased, at a public meeting in the townhall of Gateshead, was hurling defiance at any proud invader that might threaten the shores of Old England, he was met by shouts of scorn. Chartist cries were raised that the people or England were "slaves," and it mattered not to them whether their masters were of their own or of Russian blood. Mr. Straker, who was not a man to be overborne, threw back this libel on his countrymen, and said he knew that the very men who uttered it would themselves repel invasion. "No! no!" was the cry: "we'd welcome it." With a thundering expletive, the deceased banged his fist on the table, and swore that if the Russians were attempting a landing at Tynemouth, he would not be able to hold a man who heard him from running down to the coast, and casting them into the sea. The outburst was received with a roar of good-humoured laughter, with renewed counter-protestations; but, in the year of his death, Mr. Straker witnessed the fulfilment of his prediction.

His epitaph was written in the year 1835, and transmitted to him by post. He had it printed for private distribution, and it ran through two editions, both of which were circulated by himself. We need not hesitate, therefore, to copy it into this obituary notice:—

Here lie the bones of George Straker, whom Death only could conquer. He was as overbearing a tyrant, with the tongue, as ever waged war against independence. And yet the man had many virtues. In him the poor and unfortunate were safe of an ardent and sincere friend, and happy they who secured his aid. The widows and orphans of shipwrecked mariners will long cherish his memory as a zealous and kind benefactor, and over his grave shed the tribute of a tear. Of quick discernment and a vigorous mind, combining an exterior of Herculean mould with a front like Jove's "to threaten and command," he was in war of words as a giant among his fellow-men (for his metal was of the gravity of a 74), and will go down to posterity with reverential awe. How many a victim was laid low by his potent tongue! He slew brokers and fitters as Samson of old the Philistines. Not, indeed, by the bone of the dull ass, but by the steam-engine power of his own tremendous jaw, put in motion by a soul of fire, never to be subdued or controlled by aught human. Thus powerful in body as in mind, he was equally to be dreaded at the fist as in argument. Let the faint of heart tread lightly over his grave, now Death has gained a victory which man never could.—1858.

Until very recently, it seemed not improbable that the date affixed to this epitaph might prove prophetic—if it were not, indeed, falsified by the survival of its subject until a later period. He walked about amongst us, if with failing strength, without sickness, and apparently with years yet in store; but, a few weeks ago, Decay commenced her work more rapidly, and he passed away, as he had lived, without disease.

The remains of the deceased were interred on May 16th, in St. Cuthbert's cemetery, Gateshead.

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CHURCH LEASEHOLDS.

AT a PUBLIC MEETING of LEASEHOLDERS of EPISCOPAL and CAPITULAR PROPERTY within the Diocese of Durham, and of persons who, although not Leaseholders, are interested in such Property, held in the Townhall of Gateshead, on Tuesday, the 23d of May, 1854, (the Worshipful the MAYOR of Gateshead in the Chair,) it was unanimously resolved :—

Moved by George Crawshay, Esq.,
Seconded by John Greene, Esq.,

1. That an Association be formed under the title of the Newcastle and Gateshead District Church Leaseholders' Association, for the purpose of protecting the interests of the Leaseholders of Episcopal and Capitular Property in Gateshead and the adjoining districts, by watching all Measures which may be introduced into Parliament in reference to Church Property, and by obtaining either the introduction of such Measures, or of such Clauses into Measures introduced by other parties, as shall provide that any System for the Enfranchisement of Church Leaseholds shall be framed in strict conformity with those Rights of Renewal of Leases at Customary Fines which have so long existed, or that the existing Tenure may be so settled as to justify the Investment of Capital by Leaseholders, and secure them in an uninterrupted possession of their Leaseholds.

That the Subscription of Members, who may be either Leaseholders or not, shall be 10s. 6d. per annum.

That the business of the Association shall be managed by a President, two Vice-Presidents, and a Secretary, together with twelve other Members to be elected by the Association, who shall, together, form the Committee of the Association.

That General Meetings of the Association shall be held at such times and places as the Committee may appoint.

That the Association do coöperate with the other Associations formed within the Diocese for the attainment of the common object in view.

Moved by T. H. Henderson, Esq.,
Seconded by Thomas Hewett, Esq..

2. That the Mayor of Gateshead for the time being be the President of the Association; that William Hutt, Esq., M.P., and H. G. Liddell, Esq., M.P., be the Vice Presidents; and that Ralph Walters, John Greene, William Hymers, George Hawks, John Barras, George Crawshay, R. C. Forster, William Wylam, G. J. Kenmir, William Kell, J. S. Forster, and Anthony Nichol, Esqrs., be the twelve Members, with power to add to their number, to be associated with the above, and with them to form the Committee of the Association.

Moved by William Wylam, Esq.,
Seconded by George Crawshay, Esq.,

3. That Mr. W. H. Brockett be the Secretary of the Association, with a salary to be fixed hereafter.

Moved by Ralph Walters, Esq.,
Seconded by Ralph Coulthard, Esq.,

4. That in case further Funds than the Annual Subscriptions be required, the Committee are authorized by this Meeting to raise the same by a *pro rata* Rate on the Leaseholders of the district.

Moved by Peter Haggie, Esq.,
Seconded by John Barras, Esq.,

5. That the Members for the Southern Division of Northumberland, for both Divisions of the County of Durham, and for the Boroughs of Newcastle, Tynemouth, Gateshead, South Shields, Sunderland, and Durham, be respectfully requested to form themselves into a Committee, to meet in London, for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the Association; that the Committee of this Association do confer with the Committees in other districts, with a view to the necessary arrangements for the operations of the London Committee; and that the Member for Gateshead be requested to be the Convener of such Committee.

Moved by George Hawks, Esq.,
Seconded by Ralph Walters, Esq., and
Supported by George Crawshay and William Bainbridge, Esqrs.,

6. That as a Bill is now before the House of Lords for continuing the Act (which is about to expire) for facilitating the Enfranchisement of Episcopal and Capitular Property, and as that Bill does not contain such Clauses as satisfactorily secure due consideration of the Interests of the Lessees, a Petition be adopted by this Meeting, praying that such Clauses may be introduced as shall provide that, in estimating the Amount to be paid in Cases of Enfranchisement, the existing and long-continued Right to Renewal at Customary Fines be taken into account; that in Cases in which the Lessors and Lessees cannot agree upon Terms, the matter be left to the Decision of Arbitrators, as in other Cases of Property enfranchised; which Arbitrators shall also take into account the interest above mentioned; and that the Lessors and Lessees shall have authority to agree that the Amount to be paid for the Enfranchisement of any Property may be paid in a Sum in full, or in the shape of a perpetual Rentcharge on the Property. That the Earl of Durham be requested to present the petition to the House of Lords, and Mr. Hutt, M.P., that to the Commons.

Moved by John Greene, Esq.,
Seconded by R. C. Forster, Esq.,

7. That the Council of the Borough be requested to grant the use of the Townhall for the Meetings of the Committee.

DAVID HAGGIE, Mayor.

The Mayor having acceded, in the name of the Council, to the closing Resolution, it was unanimously resolved :—

Moved by George Hawks, Esq.,
Seconded by Ralph Walters, Esq.,

8. That the Thanks of the Meeting be given to the Worshipful the Mayor for his Attendance and Services, and for his prompt and liberal compliance with the wishes of the Meeting.

THE GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.—The Building Committee held a meeting May 25; and we are apprised that, the site generously offered by Mr. Ellison having been necessarily abandoned (owing to the contumelious disregard of their application for enfranchisement), further efforts to meet the wishes of the friends of the Dispensary have been made, and have been so far successful, that an existing building, admirably situated and suited for the object, has been met with, which may be had on eligible terms. We trust, therefore, that no further time will be lost, but that a prompt application will be made to the public, to ascertain if the purchase money can be raised. It is due to the Bishop of Durham to repeat, that on the 25th of September, 1853, his lordship, paying immediate attention to the Secretary's letter of the 24th,

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stated that he would put it into Mr. Gresley's hands on the following day. On the 2d of December, no further communication having reached him, the Secretary wrote to the Auditor, recapitulating the correspondence, and "requesting to be informed whether the application of the Building Committee would be granted." Still no answer—and none to this day!

ST. CUTHBERT'S DAY SCHOOL, GATESHEAD. — The Rector (Dr. Davies), who has already largely extended the educational facilities of the humbler classes in Gateshead, now proposes that a week-day school shall be connected with the new church of St. Cuthbert. There has for some time been a Sunday-school, meeting within the church. Dr. Davies projects the erection of a school-house, for both day and Sunday schools, and has made considerable progress in the raising of the requisite fund. H. W. Askew, Esq., will give the site. The Bishop of Durham and the firm of Hawks & Crawshay each contribute £25; Lord Ravensworth, £10, and the Hon. T. Liddell, Hon. Mrs. T. Liddell, and Mrs. Richmond, £1 each; the Rector, Gray & Crow, Mrs. Tulloch, and Joseph Garnett, C. Bulmer, and Ralph Walters, Esqrs., each £10; Miss Crow, Aspdin & Co., Rev. G. T. Fox, and J. W. Howey, C. J. Pearson, R. W. Hodgson, George Hedley, John Abbot, W. Peareth, and John Barras, Esqrs., each £5; Mr. Philip Smith, £2 2s.; Mr. T. Bulcraig, £1 1s.; with smaller subscriptions. So good a beginning, well followed up, will lead to success; and we have not the slightest doubt that the school will not only be substantially built, but liberally and efficiently maintained.

GATESHEAD POOR LAW UNION.

BOARD ROOM, MAY 30.—Present:—The Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and Messrs. Cook, Greene, Smith, Sowerby, Makepeace, and Bagnall.

Mr. COOK, the acting Clerk, read the minutes, and ten notices of marriage. He reported that £332 19s. was due from Gateshead, £124 3s. 5d. from Heworth, £5 15s. 6d. from Crawcrook, £13 10s. from Stella, £29 13s. 10d. from Ryton Woodside, £446 10s. from Whickham (exclusive of £50 paid in that morning), and £233 4s. 7d. from Winlaton. Balance in the Treasurer's hands, £1,185 15s. 10d. Cheques issued this day, £515 7s. 11d. Surplus, £670 7s. 11d.

The returns of outdoor relief for the past fortnight showed the number of paupers and the outlay as follows:—

First week	2405 ...	£150 11	9½
Second week	2365 ...	134 2	5
CORRESPONDING WEEK OF LAST YEAR.			
First week	1954 ...	121 14	1
Second week	1947 ...	115 11	3

The CLERK read a letter from Mr. Tinn, of Bensham, the owner of land adjoining the union workhouse, in which, understanding that an extension of the house was contemplated, he made an offer of sale; and said, if the Board would take half-an-acre, he would sell at 2s. 6d. per yard, (being £600 per acre).

From the conversation which followed, it did not appear that any present extension was contemplated; but, whether the building was executed or not, the CHAIRMAN thought it would be prudent if the House Committee, before they were hemmed in, were to inspect the ground, and see how far it would be prudent to entertain the proposal. Mr. Hurst had suggested that a girls' ward should be built.—Mr. MAKEPEACE: It is very much wanted. — The CHAIRMAN added, that the women's ward had already been rendered less eligible by some of Mr. Tinn's erections. — The ground in question, it was stated, was laid out for building purposes; and the Board of Health had demurred to the plans.—Mr. GREENE moved that the letter be referred to the House Committee. Seconded by Mr. BRINTON, and carried.

The CLERK read a letter from the Poor Law Board, in reply to one which he had written, communicating a copy of the resolution of the Guardians in favour of paying £120 a year to the Clerk—instead of £100, and extras for elections. The Poor Law Board stated that the mode of remuneration was governed by a general order, applicable to all unions, and they saw no reason why Gateshead should form an exception. They had received no complaints, from any quarter, against the existing practice. — The VICE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Alderman Robson) moved that the salary be the same as before. — Seconded by Mr. BRINTON. — Mr. MAKEPEACE said, he supposed they had no choice: they must obey their superiors. — Mr. W. CLARK: They are not willing to correct any abuses.—Motion put and carried.

The question was raised whether the vacancy in the office of Clerk should be advertised. Mr. SWINBURNE, it seemed to be generally understood, would be appointed to the office; and some of the Guardians thought it might only be giving useless trouble to candidates, if an advertisement were inserted in the newspapers. Ultimately, however, it was resolved to advertise.

There was now a "delicate investigation," evolving the following facts:—Mr. Greene had discovered that one of the inmates of the house, named Dorothy Carr, aged 28, had given birth to an illegitimate child, conceived while she was an inmate, and of which no report had been made to the Board. Mr. MAIN, the workhouse-master, said he had named the fact to Mr. Foreman. The Chairman, also, was cognizant of the occurrence. The master and matron had questioned her as to the parentage of the child, but she refused to confess; and it was not until Mr. Greene interrogated her, that she gave the name of John Dawson as the father—a smith in Newcastle.

Mr. JOHN PATTISON, the relieving officer, who had investigated the case, stated that the woman was—

Admitted, pregnant .....August 14, 1849.
Delivered .....September 16, 1849.
Left the house .....July 30, 1851.
Readmitted .....October 29, 1851.
Delivered .....April 9, 1854.

The woman told him (Mr. Pattison) that she had made the acquaintance of Dawson at a Temperance Hotel in Newcastle, while she was out of the house in 1851; and after her return she used to see him during occasional absences on leave.

Mr. GREENE said, he was surprised that the woman should have been so long in the house, and the child not affiliated. The CHAIRMAN stated, that in visiting the house the birth was brought under his notice, but he could not press the mother on the subject at the time; and, indeed, they had no power over her; the question rested with the Magistrates; the law had been altered since Mr. Greene was an overseer.—Mr. GREENE said, if women were to be allowed to go out and in, and bear child after child, the law ought to be amended.—Mr. COOK thought with Mr. Greene that inquiry was called for. Although he was the

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acting Clerk, he had never heard of the affair until brought to his notice on the previous day.—The VICE-CHAIRMAN was afraid that it would be very difficult to prevent such occurrences altogether, but such a person ought not to be allowed to go out of the house.—Mr. MAKEPEACE: Take what precautions we may, we must be liable to such things.—The woman was called in and examined. She said the intimacy was not formed in the house, nor did she ever see the father of the child there. She was out when it happened. When she went out on an errand, she fell in with him. They got acquainted at a Temperance Hotel, and there the intimacy began. This was her third child. Her three children had three fathers. The mistress and master asked her who was the last child's father — the mistress often. She refused to tell. She first told Mr. Greene. She was never out of the house without leave. She did not think it would be proper to say where she went to with the father of the child when they met. The same thing had occurred to others, and nothing was said. In Mr. Usher's time, there was Margaret Burrell had a child, and nothing was said about her.—The woman having retired, it did not appear that anything could be done; and one or two of the Guardians remarked, that as it was only twice in ten years that such an affair had occurred, it did not call for great surprise.

The Board proceeded to the relief of the poor.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

THE annual services in connection with the Newcastle and Gateshead auxiliaries have been held during the present week.

On May 28, sermons were preached at St. Thomas's and St. John's, Newcastle; and at St. Mary's, St. Cuthbert's, and Trinity, Gateshead. Seldom has St. Mary's been so crowded as on Sunday morning, when the preacher was the Rev. D. C. Browning, formerly minister of the Close (Presbyterian) church in Newcastle, and afterwards minister of the Blackett-street (Presbyterian) church: — now incumbent of Canton, in Glamorganshire. The other preachers were the Rev. Charles Overton, vicar of Cottingham, Yorkshire, and the Rev. R. G. L. Blenkinsopp, incumbent of Shadforth, Durham.

On Tuesday, May 30 the anniversary of the Gateshead auxiliary was held in the upper National school room, Ellison-street West. The Rev. Dr. Davies occupied the chair:—supported by A. G. Gray, Esq., Captain Howey, and the Revds. T. Speck, W. Bennett, S. A Herbert, T. G. Holmes, R. Clayton, D. C. Browning, Charles Overton, R. G. Blenkinsopp, James Snape, R. Shepherd, J. Kearney, W. Parry, W. Thurnell, S. B. Brasher, R. E. Roberts, T. Weeks, &c.

The Rector said, he believed it was the fourteenth time he had presided at these anniversaries in Gateshead on behalf of a cause which never lost its interest—which never could lose its interest—and with which he took increased pleasure in being more and more thoroughly identified.

The Rev. S. A. Herbert, Secretary, read the report; which stated that the income of the parent society in the past year had been £123,915 18s. 11d.; whilst that of the previous year had been but £120,932 3s. 11d.; showing an increase of £2,983 15s. The report spoke with satisfaction of the efforts of the auxiliary, notwithstanding the peculiar trials of last autumn. The whole amount of collections, contributions, and subscriptions had been £103 8s. 6d.

The Treasurer's report, read by the Rev. T. Speck, showed that, after deducting expenses, £100 10s. 8d. had been transmitted to the parent society.

The Chairman said, that, in addition to these sums, there was now ready for transmission to India a collection of needlework, which, when it arrived at its journey's end, would realize some £14 or £15, swelling the contributions of the auxiliary to something near £120. This needlework did the utmost possible credit to the fairy fingers which had been eagaged in its production.

The resolutions were respectively moved and seconded by the Rev. R. G. L. Blenkinsopp (one of the Association Secretaries), the Rev. Charles Overton (the deputation), the Rev. D. C. Browning, the Rev. R. E. Roberts, incumbent of St. George's, Barnsley, the Rev. R. Clayton, of Newcastle, and Mr. A. G. Gray.

The Chairman, in introducing the last-named speaker, expressed his wish that the laity would more frequently make their appearance on the platform of the society's meetings.

A collection was made at the close, the total Gateshead collections of the week amounting to about £28.

Two meetings, juvenile and adult, were held in Newcastle on Thursday, June 1.

GATESHEAD NATIONAL SCHOOL.—The Girls' School, conducted by Miss Clifford, in which upwards of 250 children are educated, underwent its annual ordeal of a public examination on Friday, June 2d, in the presence of the Rev. Dr. Davies, Rev. Mr. Herbert, Rev. Mr. Holmes, John Greene, Esq., and several other friends of the institution, the ladies, as usual, being in the majority. The young people acquitted themselves very creditably, some shining more brightly than others, just as it is among adults in the greater school of the world. One of the best fruits of such establishments consists in the discipline into which they bring the young—the "conduct" which they promote, and which is of more importance than mere reading and writing. We were glad to find that the school-funds were in the best possible condition, there being just a sufficient balance on the wrong side to stimulate the friends of the institution to greater liberality; which is always far better than having a large balance in a napkin, lulling them to sleep.

THE NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD CHURCH LEASEHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION.

FROM the northcountry members, referred to in the resolution of the 23d May, letters have been received expressive of cordial concurrence in the proceedings of the Newcastle and Gateshead District Association.

Mr. Farrer says:—I shall be happy to coöperate.

Mr. Ingham: — I entirely agree with your sixth resolution, and shall be glad to attend any summons of Mr. Hutt to coöperate with him.

Mr. H. G. Liddell: — My humble services will always be at the disposal of the Newcastle and Gateshead Church Leaseholders' Association.

Lord Adolphus Vane: — I beg you will express to the Association my wish to devote my best energies in support of their most important interests.

Mr. Headlam:—I shall be most happy to coöperate both with Mr. Hutt and with any gentleman that may come up from the North on the subject.

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Mr. Mowbray :—The question is one of the utmost importance, and I shall be glad to concur in such a measure as may at once secure the rights of the Church and protect the interests of the lessees.

Mr. Lindsay : — I would with pleasure meet your wishes, but my whole time is devoted to the important shipping bills now before the house ; and on that ground you must excuse me from joining your Association on a subject of which I must plead comparative ignorance. I cannot do good if I become a Jack of all Trades.

Mr. Hutt :—I have this day (May 26) presented the petition. I am very glad to learn that our friends in the North are coming forward with so much spirit to assert the rights of the leaseholders of Church property, and the interests of the public as thereby affected ; and I shall be still more pleased if any coöperation of mine can be made available to the success of their efforts. You are aware that the bill introduced into the House of Lords to renew the Episcopal and Capitular Management Act has been referred to a committee of that body. I think that this committee must not be suffered to close its inquiry without taking cognizance of our case. I have placed myself in communication with most of the local representatives named in the resolutions of the public meeting. We shall endeavour to strengthen ourselves by conferring with others, in and out of parliament, who sympathize with our position.

Mr. Hutt and Mr. Ingham each enclosed a list of the Lords' select committee, viz. :—Lords Granville, Salisbury, Derby, Shaftesbury, Fitzwilliam, Powis, Harrowby, Stanley of Alderley, Say and Sele (Canon of Hereford), and Auckland (Bishop of Sodor and Man), and the Bishops of London, Oxford, and St. Asaph.

Mr. Hutt advised the instant framing of clauses in accordance with the views of the Association, to be enforced on the attention of the committee and of the Government by a deputation ; and on Monday, the Gateshead and Shields Secretaries proceeded to London, to take the necessary steps.

LONDON, TUESDAY, MAY 30. — Mr. Forster, Mr. Salmon, and myself had a meeting to-day at Mr. Ingham's chambers, with Mr. Hutt, Mr. Elalle, the Recorder of York, and Mr. John Gregson, and had the matter discussed.

It appears that the select committee of the Lords met and agreed to their report yesterday, and the bill is to be in the committee of the whole house to-night. Lord Harrowby told us to-day that they had struck all the clauses but two out of the bill, and made it simply a bill for continuing the permissive power of enfranchisement, and limiting it to one year only. His lordship seemed fully alive to the question, and fully impressed also with the extreme hardship of the South Shields case, but thought that the Lords would not listen to any proposition to make the act more comprehensive in principle than that of 1851. He advised us to see Lord Granville (President of the Council) upon it ; which, of course, we shall do when the deputations come up, as it is to be feared nothing can be done in the Lords, and that any improvement must be attempted in the Commons, where the northcountry members will make a vigorous effort in protection of the leaseholders — or, rather, in rendering the act what it professes to be — an act to facilitate enfranchisements, which at present it does not seem to do.

Mr. Salmon, Mr. Forster, and myself decided upon petitioning the Lords ; and we got Mr. Allhusen to sign the petition also, praying that arbitration clauses may be inserted in the bill, and pointing out that such clauses already exist in the Irish Church Temporalities Act and in the Copyhold Enfranchisement Act — and expressing our opinion that it has been the want of such clauses that has made the act of so little comparative utility in the diocese of Durham.

We have seen Earl Vane this afternoon, and given him the petition, which he very readily consented to present to-night, and he seems very much disposed to do everything in his power in favour of the leaseholders.

It is in the House of Commons, however, most probably, where the real struggle must be made ; but we must endeavour, if possible, with the aid of the deputations, to impress upon Lord Aberdeen, Lord John Russell, or Lord Granville, the necessity of admitting and supporting the rights of the leaseholders to every equitable consideration If the Lords admit the principle of arbitration into the bill before it leaves them, it will be well ; but I confess I hardly expect it. But in the House of Commons, particularly if the Government support or even refrain from interfering in the matter, I trust a better success may attend us

We meet to-morrow morning at Mr. Ingham's, to make arrangements for the interviews with the Government, and for the consideration of the statements that are to be made to them on behalf of the leaseholders. We expect Mr. H. G. Liddell and other members at the meeting to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31.—Earl Vane presented the petition of the Church leaseholders of Gateshead, Newcastle, Heworth, and the vicinity, to the House of Lords, on the 26th inst. His lordship, we believe, took the oaths and his seat at the same time.

A petition from Mr. Salmon, Mr. Forster, Mr. Brockett, and Mr. Allhusen, as representatives of the leaseholders of South Shields, Gateshead, Felling, Heworth, Sunderland, Durham, &c., was presented on Tuesday evening, the 30th, by Earl Vane. The petitioners prayed that arbitration clauses, similar to those in 3 and 4 William IV., cap. 37, for amending the law relating to the temporalities of the Church in Ireland, and in 15 and 16 Vict, cap. 51, for the enfranchisement of copyhold property, might be inserted in the Episcopal and Capitular Estates Bill, the petitioners considering that the absence of such clauses was the cause of the Act of 1851 having been comparatively inoperative in the county of Durham.

The Select Committee sat on Monday, and reported to the house the same evening.

LONDON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 31.—(*Another Account.*)—To-day, we have had another meeting, including Mr. Blackett, Mr. Hutt, Mr. Headlam, Mr. Ingham, Mr. Gregson, Mr. Tiplady (Town Clerk of Durham), Mr. Salmon (Town Clerk of South Shields), Mr. Allhusen, Mr. Forster, and Mr. J. C. Heath, when it was determined that Mr. Hutt should ask an interview with the Government, and, if possible, have it fixed for Friday, so that the deputations from South Shields, &c., might have time to arrive ; and it was arranged that all the members of the London Committee — that is, the M.P.s on both sides of the Tyne (who have expressed a readiness to act)—should be requested to join the deputation, as well as other members of parliament who have taken a deep interest in it. The bill passed through the committee of the whole house (of Lords) on Tuesday night. Our petition, however, even if nothing is done on the third reading, will remain as a record or protest in favour of the arbitration principle. The Gateshead petition having been printed in the votes of the house, I send you a copy.

THURSDAY, 4 P.M.—I have not yet heard whether the Earl of Aberdeen can give us an interview to-morrow. Mr. Stevenson, from South Shields, has arrived.

THE NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, SHIELDS, and GATESHEAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The MONTHLY MEETING of the Committee will be held at the Offices, 29, Sandhill, Newcastle, on MONDAY NEXT, the 5th day of June, 1854, at 2 o'clock. W. H. BROCKETT, Secretary.

Newcastle, June 2, 1854.

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THE GATESHEAD TOWN-COUNCIL.

MAYOR.	COUNCILLORS	
Haggie, David	Allhusen, Chris.	†Hewitt, James
ALDERMEN.	†Brinton, George	Hodgson, R. W.
†Cummins, T.	†Cook, William	Hunter, George
Hawks, George	Crawshay, E.	†Hymers, J. A.
†Lister, John	Douglas, William	†Ionn, F. P.
Pearson, C. J.	Garbutt, C.	Patterson, G.
†Robson, Joseph	†Gray, Alex. Geo.	Skelton, John
†Smith, James	†Haggie, Peter	Vickers, John
		†Wilson, James

☞ Those marked (†) were present.

TOWNHALL, JUNE 7.—In the absence of the Mayor (David Haggie, Esq.), who was unable to attend the meeting, (and who, in a note intimating his inability, stated that he was about to leave home for London, to take part in the proceedings at the opening of Sydenham Palace,)

Mr. Ald. CUMMINS was called to the chair.

The TOWN CLERK laid before the meeting:—1. A printed circular from the General Board of Health, admonishing the local authorities not to infer too confidently, from the decline of the cholera epidemic, that the danger had passed away, former experience being opposed to the conclusion.—2. A letter from the Home Secretary as to statistics of inquests, (which have been supplied by the Coroner, and published in the *Observer*).—3 A letter from Mr. T. Robson, overseer of Lamesley, calling attention to the state of the boundary between that chapelry and the borough of Gateshead at Chowdean, arising from the throwing down of an old fence, and the alteration of a watercourse, (which has been attended to by Mr. Hall).—4. A letter from Mr. Swinburne as to security for Mrs. Coulthard's loan, (which led to a resolution that a bond be granted).—5. A letter from the General Board of Health, Mr. Tom Taylor, acknowledging the receipt of the plan of the eastern sewerage.—6. A letter from the Secretary of State calling for a return of persons convicted of stealing coal, (a dead letter as to Gateshead, there being no separate court of quarter sessions in the borough).—7. A letter from the Secretary of State pointing out clauses in the hackney coach regulations requiring amendment; and a report thereon from the Parliamentary, Railway, and Bye-law Committee, meeting the suggestions, (which report was adopted).—8. A memorial signed by upwards of 120 ratepayers, requesting that, under such regulations as the Council might impose, the meetings of that body might be open to the public.

This last document led to a smart discussion; and when, as the Town Clerk read the names, it appeared that the fair sex participated in the curiosity of the burgesses, there was some merriment. Mr. A. G. GRAY doubted whether, as they had no proof that the memorialists were ratepayers, the prayer could be entertained; but Mr. PETER HAGGIE said, he knew many of the names to be those of ratepayers, and, besides, independently of that, the request was so reasonable that he would concede it on its merits. Mr. GRAY said he had no objection to the memorial on its merits. Mr. COOK said, the names were many of them familiar to him as those of ratepayers; and he quite agreed with Mr. Haggie; they had nothing to conceal, and he would second the proposal. Police courts, courts of law and justice, &c., were open to the public; and he saw no reason why a council-chamber should be an exception. Mr. HEWITT, looking at the respectability of the memorial and the merits of its prayer, would give his cordial consent to the proposal. Mr. BRINTON, Mr. HYMERS, and Mr. IONN spoke in favour of the memorial. The MAYOR saw no objection to the admission of the public; but, as Mr. Ald. Smith had suggested to him, they had better come to no decision at the present meeting; notice of motion should be given. The Council acceded to this suggestion; and the deputation in charge of the memorial (Mr. Dingwall and Mr. Miller) were apprised by the Mayor of the result, and expressed themselves gratified. The memorial was referred to the Public Health Committee, with a view to the consideration of the necessary arrangements; and Mr. HAGGIE gave notice of a motion in accordance with the prayer.

The TOWN CLERK intimated that, in compliance with a resolution of the Council, Mr. Rochester had submitted to the deduction of the sums paid as income tax from the commencement of his loan.

A letter was read from the Town Clerk of Tynemouth, and another from the Police Superintendent, proposing a system of intercommunication among the police forces of the district, promotive of their greater efficiency. Referred to Superintendent Schorey.

Mr. Ald. LISTER, as Chairman, presented a report from the Baths and Washhouses Committee, from which it appeared that they were highly satisfied with the work, so far as it had gone.

The report was received, and various payments which it recommended were ordered. In reply to Mr. GRAY, Mr. LISTER said he could not state how far the estimates would be exceeded; there would be some extras, but not much; Mr. Hall, however, could best answer the question. Mr. HALL said he could not precisely say; but the extras were not heavy. The building, said Mr. BRINTON, in answer to an inquiry, would be ready in about two months. Ald. LISTER: All that.

The ordering of a borough rate was deferred to the next meeting.

The TOWN CLERK read a report from the Public Health Committee, including a report from the Surveyor, dealing with a variety of matters.

Mr. GRAY, referring to a note which he had addressed to the Surveyor, and comprised in the report, observed that there was, it seemed, no effectual remedy for the nuisances in Park-lane and the new streets adjoining, in the absence of the proposed eastern sewer. The season of hot weather was at hand, and here was an undrained district, abounding in green, stagnant pools, most dangerous to the public health. The ruts and other hollows, indeed, seemed to be used by the inhabitants as cesspools. Surely there must be some legal protection against the conversion of a street into a dunghill!

The new streets, it appeared, being private, were not liable to repair by the local authorities; and there being no means of drainage, the proprietors could not fully cure the evil. Mr. HALL said, he did what he could in the way of scavenage; but the streets had no bottom, and could not be kept clean.

It was understood that Mr. Hall would do what he could in mitigation of the nuisance.

Plans sent in by Mr. Potts of his intended new building on the triangular site between Hills-street and Half-Moon-lane, formed the subject of a supplementary report from Mr. Hall.—Referred to the Public Health Committee.

Incorporated in the Committee's report was a certificate from the Town Surveyor, stating Mr. Sisson's alleged nuisances in Hillgate to be dangerous to the

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public health. The TOWN CLERK stated, that owing to the absence of such a certificate when the resolution of the Council was passed, he had not been able, legally, to apply for a summons. The defect was now cured; and if the resolution were again moved and adopted, he could proceed. No motion was made. Consequently, after a short conversation, the matter dropped.

Mr. Ald. CUMMINS withdrew his motion as to the proposed increase in the Treasurer's salary.

The TOWN CLERK read a letter from the General Board of Health, dated June 2, and bearing the signature of "Henry Austin." Having fully examined the plans of the proposed drainage of the East district of Gateshead, complete in themselves, he wished to have some understanding of the general features of the town, and suggested that the Surveyor should either call upon him in London, or transmit him such information as he could afford on the subject. He also requested a copy of Mr. Hall's report of the 8th of February, and a longitudinal section of the main sewer now proposed, showing the inclinations and depths, and the level of tide at which the discharge was fixed. Observing that there was a difference of more than 100 feet of level in the short distance travelled by the sewer, he was led to inquire whether any intercepting line was proposed, or would be practicable, for cutting off the higher drainage from the lower; and, further, whether any intercepting line would be practicable in the lower level, with the view to intercept the several discharges of *sewage* into the river, and carry them below the town.

Referred to the Public Health Committee. Mr. Hall to transmit the information required.

A letter was read from Mr. Wailes, of Newcastle, intimating his intention to close a carriage road over his land lying west of the new Durham road, beyond the tollgate, and proposing to construct a carriage road by Coldwell Dean, by the side of Mr. Newall's wall, to Saltwell-lane. He requested leave to raise the road at the slack in which the well is placed, and to erect a pump, with trough, for the public use.

After one or two of the members had remarked that the public, ever since they could remember, had exercised a right of footway along the road which Mr. Wailes proposed to close, his letter, and accompanying plan, were referred to the Public Health Committee.

A letter was read from the Lord Mayor of York, reminding the Council that he had been authorized, in the event of the introduction of a bill to give the counties a control over the police of the boroughs, to convene a meeting of the Mayors. Such a bill Lord Palmerston had introduced on the 2d inst., and, therefore, he now convened a meeting, to be held in London on the 9th. The Mayor of Gateshead, in transmitting this letter to the Town Clerk, intimated his readiness to attend the meeting, if so instructed. Resolved, that His Worship be requested to attend.

Adjourned to Wednesday, July 5.

CHURCH LEASEHOLDS.

THE deputations from Durham, Gateshead, South Shields, &c., having been informed by Mr. Hutt that he had arranged with the Earl of Aberdeen for an interview in Downing-street on June 9, at half-past 2 o'clock, it was arranged that the members of parliament who had expressed a readiness to assist the leaseholders should be requested to meet the deputations at the Union Hotel in Cockspur-street, and proceed thence to the official residence of the noble lord. They assembled accordingly; and (Mr. HUTT in the chair) the matter was considered, and the order of proceedings at the interview arranged. The party then proceeded. It consisted of Lord Harry Vane, M.P., Lord Adolphus Vane, M.P., and Messrs. R. D. Shafto, M.P., H. G. Liddell, M.P., J. B. Blackett, T. E. Headlam, M.P., W. D. Seymour, M.P., J. Abel Smith, M.P., J. R. Mowbray, M.P., William Hutt, M.P., Robert Ingham, M.P., Hugh Taylor, George Hawks, Christian Allhusen, James S. Forster, John Gregson, William Anderson, J. C. Stevenson, R. W. Swinburne, William Swinburne, W. H. Brockett, and the Town Clerks of Durham and South Shields. The deputation were introduced by Mr. Hutt.

Mr. JOHN GREGSON (on behalf of the Durham leaseholders), Mr. R. W. SWINBURNE (on behalf of those of South Shields and the neighbourhood), and Mr. ALLHUSEN, as representing the Chamber of Commerce at Newcastle, and the leaseholders of Gateshead and the surrounding districts, severally addressed his lordship; as did also Mr. JOHN ABEL SMITH, the member for Chichester, who stated that, although the lessees among his constituents had strong claims to consideration, he could not but admit that the peculiarities in connection with the system of ecclesiastical leasing in the diocese of Durham entitled the lessees there even to a much stronger claim.

The several speakers pointed out to his lordship not only the strong claims of the lessees, but the difficulties which they experienced in obtaining enfranchisement, and the absolute necessity which existed for inserting in the bill now before parliament a clause providing that in cases in which lessors and lessees cannot agree upon terms for enfranchisement, the whole matter may be left to arbitration — one arbitrator to be chosen by the lessor, another by the lessee, and a third by the two arbitrators chosen by the parties. It was understood that the applications both to the Dean and Chapter and the Bishop of Durham for enfranchisements had been numerous, and—(*parturiunt montes*) — the result had been not as much enfranchisement as would stint even the most *ridiculus mus* on the leasehold of the Bishop, and only twenty-two agreements as to those of the Dean and Chapter. The great age of the respected prelate, it had been said, was the cause of inaction, so far as the episcopal property was concerned; but that apology, the deputation were afraid, was not quite consistent with the letter of the auditor, Mr. Gresley, to the Chamber of Commerce on the Tyne.

The Earl of ABERDEEN expressed some little surprise that the matter had not been represented to the legislature in the shape of petitions; but his lordship was informed that petitions had been sent to both houses (a circumstance of which he was not aware), and that, so recently as Tuesday evening, a petition had been presented by Earl Vane, praying that arbitration clauses might be inserted in the Episcopal and Capitular Estates Bill, similar to those in the Irish Church Temporalities and Copyhold Enfranchisement Acts.

His lordship said that the select committee, it appeared, had struck out some clauses of the bill, and had made it, like its predecessor, a three years bill.

The deputation informed his lordship that they understood the bill had been intended by the select committee to be only a one year's bill—but that the

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printed copy, as amended, certainly stated three years; which must be a mistake, as Lord Harrowby, who was on the committee, had told them the bill was only to be for one year. [This turned out to be a mistake, as suspected. The amended bill had been printed as for *three* years, instead of *one*, and was itself subsequently amended accordingly.]

Lord ABERDEEN, in concluding the interview, said that all he could do would be to stop the progress of the bill, in order that the matter should be considered, if it should be thought necessary to do so on consultation with the Lord President, who had charge of the bill, and whom he would see on the subject.

The deputies then withdrew—and they arranged to endeavour to have interviews, if possible, with the Lord President and Lord John Russell. In the evening, accordingly, they met at the House of Lords, and, with Mr. Hutt, Mr. Ingham, Mr. Headlam, and Mr. J. A. Smith, had the honour of an interview with both those noble lords — the former accompanied by Mr. J. S. Lefevre, one of the Church Estate Commissioners. The same statements which were made to Lord Aberdeen were laid before Lords Granville and John Russell; and the deputations withdrew, convinced that, if their views should not be adopted, they would at any rate be maturely and dispassionately considered. The progress of the bill was stopped; and as the houses would adjourn that evening over the holidays, the deputies from this district, considering they could do nothing further in London until the reassembling of parliament, returned home.

On June 6, morning, a meeting was held, in the Townhall, Gateshead, of the Committee of the District Association, (William Hymers, Esq., J.P., in the chair,) at which the Secretary and Mr. J. S. Forster reported the foregoing proceedings. The result of the deputation was considered, on the whole, satisfactory; and thanks were cordially voted to those gentlemen who had gone up to London from the North, and to the members of the houses of parliament who had so zealously aided them in their labours. Mr. Forster and the Secretary said it would be impossible to speak too highly of the manner in which the members had exerted themselves to promote the deputation, and the Government had listened attentively to the statements laid before them.

VIOLENT DEATH OF THOMAS BURNET, ESQ. — Mr. Burnet, of Summerhill Grove, Newcastle, whose name is familiarly associated with the Fine Arts and other societies in that town, visited his country mansion at Woodgate, near Derwentcote, on June 14th, accompanied by three of his daughters. Returning in his phaeton in the evening, he alighted at Winlaton Bank, that he might walk down, and lead the horse by the head, one of his daughters taking the reins. Passing two carts, one laden with deals, the other with iron, the noise alarmed the animal, which became restive, and threw Mr. Burnet down. The wheels went over his chest. A girl named Hurst, the daughter of a blacksmith, carrying a can of water, was thrown down and killed. Another child had its arm broken. One of the Misses Burnet was thrown out, but not much hurt:—her sisters were kept in by the apron of the vehicle until the furious animal was arrested at Blaydon. Joseph Laycock, Esq., of Lintz Hall, who was driving home from Newcastle, picked up Mr. Burnet and his daughter on the road, and drove to Summerhill, where Sir John and Mr. Fife were speedily in attendance; but the unfortunate gentleman expired on Thursday, June 15, at 6 o'clock.

GATESHEAD FELL FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW.—The members held their first show for the season on June 4, at the house of Mr. John Patterson, Crown inn, Low Fell, when prizes were awarded as follows by the judges (Messrs. Walker, Ranson, and Tones):—

Mr. M. S. Dodds, 1, with single rose; 1, with bybloom tulip; 1, with bizarre tulip; 1, with three tulips; 1, with best rose; 2, with twelve dissimilar pansies; 2, with six dissimilar pansies; 3, with rose; 2, with early cabbage; 2, with head of lettuce; 2, with two stems of rhubarb.

Mr. William Southern, 2, with single rose; 2, with bybloom tulip; 2, with bizarre; 3, with three tulips; 1, with 24 pansies.

Mr. Ralph Brown, 3, with single rose; 3, with bybloom tulip; 3, with bizarre tulip; 2, with three tulips; 1, with two stems of rhubarb.

Mr. John Carr, 2, with 24 pansies; 1, with twelve dissimilar ditto; 1, with six dissimilar ditto; 1, with seedling pansy; 2, with rose; 1, with white stock; 1, with double wallflower; 1, with single wallflower; 1, with early cabbage; 3, with head of lettuce.

Mr. Matthew Brown, 1, with rose; 1, with bouquet.

Mr. Joseph Gardner, 3, with early cabbage.

Mr. John Robson, 1, with head of lettuce.

Mr. Joseph Lowrey, 3, with two stems of rhubarb.

THE CHOLERA RELIEF FUND. — The Gateshead Committee met on Wednesday, June 14, when the recipients of relief were again in attendance, and the scale was revised for the ensuing three months. The widows and other survivors of those who perished in the late epidemic, it must gratify the contributors of the fund to know, gratefully confessed the service which the relief already enjoyed had conferred upon them, and were thankful that the bounty of their friends was not yet exhausted.

GATESHEAD POOR LAW UNION.

ON Tuesday, June 13, the usual fortnightly meeting of the Guardians was held in the Board Room, West-street, Gateshead. There was a full attendance of members, Mr. CORNELIUS GARBUTT (the Chairman of the Board) presiding.

Mr. COOK, officiating as Clerk, read the minutes of the previous meeting, and the statement of accounts, showing that the Treasurer had a balance in hand of £1036 3s. 2d. Cheques were issued at this meeting for £296 1s. 7d., reducing the balance in hand to £740 1s. 7d.

Arrears from the parishes were due as follows:—Gateshead, £182 19s.; Heworth, £80; Ryton Woodside, £29 13s. 10d.; Whickham, £360 10s.; and Winlaton, £154 4s. 7d.; total, £807 7s. 5d.

In reply to a question by Mr. GREENE, as to whether the Union obtained interest upon the balance in hand, the CHAIRMAN said they did not. It went to the Treasurer.

Mr. RAMSAY said the Treasurer acted without a salary. It had been proposed that he should be paid £20 a-year, but it was found that they had no power to allow that.

Mr. COOK then brought under the notice of the Board a pamphlet which had been forwarded to them by the General Board of Health, and which gave instructions to Boards of Guardians and other public bodies as to preventive measures against epidemic cholera. The pamphlet was too long to be read at the

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meeting; but, on the motion of Mr. RAMSAY, seconded by Mr. HODGSON, it was resolved that thirty copies should be ordered, so that each Guardian might be furnished with one, the information contained in the tract being considered very important.

The CHAIRMAN having announced that the next business would be the election of a Clerk to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Foreman,

Mr. G. H. RAMSAY rose and said he was very glad indeed to propose to their notice a gentleman who would be eminently qualified to fill the office of Clerk to their Board. He alluded to Mr. Joseph Willis Swinburne, solicitor, of Gateshead. As he supposed the election would be unanimous, there would be no occasion that he should enter into any laboured account of his qualifications. Mr. Swinburne was well known to all of them; and from the admirable manner in which he had fulfilled all his duties hitherto, he had no doubt that in Mr. S. they would find a very excellent assistant in their operations. He (Mr. Ramsay) was intimately acquainted with Mr. Swinburne's father, who was one of the best public men they ever had; and he believed that Mr. Swinburne, whom he had now great pleasure in proposing, was one who, without any dispute, would obtain the confidence of that Board.

Mr. Ald. ROBSON seconded the proposal, observing that he had known Mr. Swinburne from his infancy, and from the experience he had had with his father, as well as his practice since, he had gained a complete knowledge of every part of the Union, and knew almost every man in it. If they travelled the world over, he did not think they could obtain a more suitable man.

No other candidate being proposed, the motion was put; after which the CHAIRMAN declared Mr. Swinburne unanimously elected, and complimented the Board on the choice they had made. (Applause.)

Mr. COWEN then proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Foreman for his able services whilst he had filled the office to which Mr. Swinburne had just been elected. No one, he observed, would dispute that Mr. Foreman had done his utmost to fill the duties efficiently; and no one would doubt that the able manner in which he served them whilst in health had been highly beneficial to them.

Mr. LAYCOCK seconded the motion. He was sure that every member would admit that Mr. Foreman did the duties of the office to the best of his ability. He was also a person in whom the Board had confidence, and it was only to be regretted his health did not permit him to continue his services.

The motion was unanimously carried, the CHAIRMAN added expressions of regret at the resignation of Mr. Foreman; and the Board proceeded to the relief of the poor.

NOTICE.

THE Local Board of Health for the Corporate District of the Borough of Gateshead, intend, at the expiration of one Month from this Notice, to apply to one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State for confirmation of certain Bye Laws, made and ordained this day by the said Local Board, for Regulating the conduct of the Proprietors and Drivers of Hackney Carriages plying within the said Borough, or within Five Miles of the Gateshead Passenger Station of the York, Newcastle, and Berwick Railway, ; for Regulating the Number of Persons to be carried by such Hackney Carriages; for fixing the Stands of such Hackney Carriages, and the distance to which they may be compelled to take Passengers, not exceeding ~~six~~ miles from the said Station; for fixing the Rates or Fares to be paid for such Hackney Carriages; and for securing the Safe Custody and Re-delivery of any Property left in Hackney Carriages. A Copy of the said proposed Bye Laws is kept at the Office of the said Local Board, and is open during office hours thereat, to the inspection of the Ratepayers of the said Corporate District, without fee or reward. Dated this Seventh day of June, 1854.

G. J. KENMIR,
Clerk to the said Local Board.

FOR SALE, or TO LET, for a Term of Years, and may be entered in August, or as agreed upon, SALTWELL COTTAGE, containing Dining and Drawing Rooms, five Bed Rooms, two Kitchens, Dairy, Cellar, &c. Also, a Two-Roomed Cottage, extensive Stabling, Hay and Corn Lofts, Coach-house, Yards, Gardens, and 18¼ acres of Old Grass Land. Two Miles from Newcastle Bridge. Apply at Saltwell Cottage.

TO LET, One of the COTTAGES at SALTWELL DENE, suitable for the Residence of a Genteel Family, containing breakfast, dining, and drawing rrooms, three bedrooms, servants' ditto, with good kitchens and scullery, and other conveniences. Also, good stable and gig house; and a large garden, well stocked with fruit-trees. Rent moderate. This House commands a View of the beautiful Vale of Ravensworth and the River Tyne; is two miles from the High Level Bridge; may be entered immediately; and will be shown any day by the Gardener, on the Premises.

For further Particulars, apply at the *Observer* Office.

GATESHEAD HOUSE.

F. P. IONN begs to inform his Friends that he has just received a COMPLETE STOCK of the following Articles, viz., KID and other GLOVES, SHIRTS, SHIRT FRONTS, COLLARS, TIES, SILK POCKET HANDKERCHIEFS ready for use, HATS, HOSIERY, LACE, &c.

☞ Just imported, a prime Lot of WELLINGTON BOOTS—*very Cheap.*

213, High-street, and 1, Hills-street.

No. 2, BRIDGE-STREET, GATESHEAD.

C. S. OLIVER, BOOKSELLER, STATIONER, PRINTER, &c., respectfully informs his Friends and the Public that he has commenced Business in the above Shop, with an Assortment of the MOST POPULAR WORKS, GENERAL STATIONERY, and FANCY HARDWARE ARTICLES.

C. S. O. will also supply Newspapers, Periodicals, &c., and hopes to merit a share of public patronage.

☞ BOOKBINDING and PRINTING neatly executed.

June 17, 1854.

Capt. Lamb was presented to the Queen on the 9th inst., at Her Majesty's drawing-room, by Major-General Luellyn, on his appointment to the North Durham Militia.

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EPISCOPAL AND CAPITULAR ESTATES MANAGEMENT BILL, 1854.

THE Leaseholders of Episcopal and Capitular Property in the Diocese of Durham respectfully submit to the Members of both Houses of Parliament the following facts.

I. The Select Committee appointed by the House of Commons in 1839 to inquire into the mode of granting and renewing leases of Episcopal and Capitular property, and into the probable amount of any increased value which might be obtained by an improved management, *with a due consideration of the interests of the Established Church and of the present lessees of such property*, and to report their opinion thereon, reported :—

1. That the present mode of leasing has continued for nearly three centuries upon the same footing on which it now exists. [Report, p. 3.]
2. That the leases of the Episcopal property in the diocese of Durham are for three lives, renewable when a life drops, or for 21 years, renewable every seven; and of the Capitular property they are generally for 21 years, renewed every seven; fines being charged on the renewals of both Episcopal and Capitular leases, to the extent of one and a half of the annual value on each septennial renewal of a twenty-one years' lease. [Evidence of Mr. Stoddart, bailiff of the Dean and Chapter, and of Mr. Davison, land agent of the Bishop of Durham.]
3. That both lessors and lessees are injured by the uncertainty which exists with respect to the continuance of the existing tenure; and that the sooner the question is settled the better. [Report, p. 19.]
4. That the injurious system of fines upon leases for lives, as also upon leases for terms, ought to be abolished. [Report, p. 19.]
5. That a fee-simple ought to be substituted for a leasehold tenure throughout the property of the Church. [Report, p. 19.]
6. That the conversion of Church leasehold into fee-simple, commonly called enfranchisement, ought to be provided for by Act of Parliament. [Report, p. 19.]
7. That the customary confidence of renewal by the lessee ought to be considered according to local circumstances in the principles of enfranchisement. [Report, p. 19.]

II. Her Majesty's Episcopal and Capitular Revenues Commissioners, appointed in 1849 for the purpose of inquiry into the system of leasing and managing the real property of the Church in England and Wales, and of considering how such property could be rendered most productive and beneficial to the Church, and most conducive to the spiritual welfare of the people, *due regard being had to the just and reasonable claims of the present holders of such property under lease or otherwise*, reported :—

1. That the present system of leasing and managing such property differs little from that which has prevailed for many ages; and its origin and nature, as well as the objections to which it is liable, were fully reported upon by the Committee of the House of Commons on Church Leases in 1839. [Report, p. 1.]
2. That there is little doubt that under a different plan of management the estates might be made to produce a much larger income for the Church, and, at the same time, be held upon a tenure more acceptable to the lessees. [Report, p. 2.]
3. That a right of perpetual renewal should be secured to the lessees.

III. The Select Committee appointed by the House of Lords in 1851 to consider the Bill for the management and regulation of Episcopal and Capitular estates and revenues in England and Wales, reported :—

1. That in order to render such estates most productive and beneficial to the Church and most conducive to the spiritual welfare of the people, it is advisable to give facilities for the alteration of the present system of leasing the property, "due regard being had to the just and reasonable claims of the present holders of such property under lease or otherwise. [Report, p. 3.]
2. That enfranchisements on the part of the Church, and surrenders on the part of the lessees, *upon reasonable and just terms*, should be encouraged and facilitated. [Report, p. 4.]
3. That in defining the terms of enfranchisement and surrender, it is advisable, and it would be in accordance with the usual course of legislation, that any injury sustained by either party, through the alteration of their relative positions, by legislative interference, be considered and compensated. [Report, p. 5.]
4. That the committee suggest that a permissive Bill be passed, empowering the Bishops and Capitular bodies to enfranchise and to accept surrenders from their lessees. [Report, p. 6.]
5. That the beneficial interest of the lessee shall be valued at the same rate of interest at which the value of the fee simple is determined, and that as regards leases for years which are reduced below 21 years, the lessee shall have the option before enfranchisement or surrender, of one more renewal for seven years, at the rate of fine at which he was heretofore renewed. [Report, p. 6.]

IV. In conformity with the recommendation of the Committee of the House of Lords, an Act of Parliament was passed in 1851 [14 and 15 Vict., cap. 104] "to facilitate the management and improvement of Episcopal and Capitular Estates in England," which recites and provides as follows :—

1. That it would tend to the improvement of Episcopal and Capitular estates in England, without prejudice to the interests of persons holding leases thereof, if facilities were given for such dealings as are subsequently provided for between ecclesiastical corporations and their lessees. [Preamble.]
2. That ecclesiastical corporations, with the approval of the Church Estates Commissioners, *who shall pay due regard to the just and reasonable claims of the present holders of lands, under lease or otherwise, arising from long-continued practice of renewal*, may sell to their lessees the reversion and estate and interest of such corporations, on such terms and with such approval as aforesaid as the Corporations may think fit; or they may purchase the interest of their lessees; or they may exchange lands with their essees, paying or receiving the difference of value. [Section 1.]

V. The last (or third) General Report of the Church Estates Commissioners, dated February 23, 1854, states :—

1. That under the Act 14 and 15 Vict., cap. 104, they had approved the terms agreed upon in 289 cases for the sale of reversions, and in 20 cases for the purchase of leasehold interests; and in 28 cases they had declined to approve the terms proposed; but that in 20 of these cases the original proposals had been subsequently modified so as to receive the approval of the Commissioners. [Report, p. 3.]
2. That the value in fee of the 309 estates so agreed to be enfranchised exceeded £1,400,000; and that during the same period [since the passing of the Act] the Ecclesiastical Commissioners *acting on the same principles which had regulated their [the Church Estates Commissioners'] proceedings* had made 312 agreements for enfranchisement of property, exceeding £1,700 000 in value; so that the Church Estates agreed to be enfranchised since the passing of the Act had been not less than 621, and of a value in the aggregate of more than £3,000,000. [Report, p. 3.]

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3. That the agreements had been effected generally *in accordance with the recommendations* made in the Committee of the House of Lords, by whom the Church leasehold question was considered in 1851 prior to the introduction of the Act. [Report, pp. 3, 4.]

4. That they had observed with satisfaction a growing disposition on the part of many ecclesiastical corporations to entertain proposals by their lessees to effect enfranchisement, and they (the Commissioners) believed that "the improvement of Episcopal and Capitular estates, without prejudice to the interests of persons holding leases granted thereof," would continue to be effected, if the duration of the Act were prolonged. [Report, p. 4.]

5. That the enfranchisements of Episcopal and Capitular leasehold property in the diocese of Durham have been, since the passing of the Act, as follows:—

Episcopal..... None.
Capitular..... Twenty-two.

That the purchase of leasehold interests in Episcopal and Capitular property in the diocese of Durham have been, as follows:—

Episcopal..... None.
Capitular..... ... One.

And that the agreements of which the Church Estates Commissioners have not approved in the diocese o Durham have been—

Episcopal..... None.
Capitular..... One.

[Schedules A. and B. annexed to the Report.]

VI. The Parliamentary Return No. , session 1854, (moved for by Mr. Ingham,) shows:—

1. That so far as the diocese of Durham is concerned the following have been the number of applications for enfranchisement. [*Vide* Return.]

Episcopal property..... 52
Capitular property 249

2. That no agreements for enfranchisements have been made by the Bishop, and his refusals have been *one*—viz., the case of a fishery which had been represented to him as being obnoxious to the neighbourhood.

3. That the Bishop's age and state of health, together with the death of an officer of the see who had had such matters in hand, and the failure of his lordship's endeavours to induce the Church Estates Commissioners to undertake the business for him, have been the causes of no agreements for Episcopal property being entered into; but his lordship is now taking steps to secure the services of an intelligent person, versed in similar calculations, for the express purpose of aiding the process of enfranchisement. [*Vide* the Bishop's explanatory letter.]

4. That the following are the results of the 249 applications made to the Dean and Chapter of Durham:—

1. Number where applications have been made for sale of terms 8
2. Ditto where for exchange..... 1
3. Ditto where applications have been agreed upon for the purchase of reversions and referred to Church Estate Commissioners..... 68*
4. Ditto where applications for sale of terms have been agreed and referred 6
5. Ditto where applications for purchase of reversions have been declined by lessors because not expedient to sell at present 45
6. Ditto where declined by lessees after terms asked by lessors, or where no answer was given by lessees to the terms..... 34
7. Ditto where declined by lessors, because, where lessees were desired to make offers, either none were made or such as were altogether insufficient 27
8. Ditto where applications for sale of term were declined by lessors because price asked was too high 2
9. Ditto where applications for exchange were declined because inexpedient..... 1
10. Under consideration 57

[*Vide* Return.] —249

* It follows, therefore, that upwards of 50 cases must be still under the consideration of the Church Estate Commissioners, who, in justice to the Capitular body, should have stated this fact in their Report, unless these cases have occurred (which is hardly probable), since the 23d February, 1854.

VII. The Act 3 and 4 William VI., cap. 37, "to alter and amend the laws relating to the temporalities of the Church in Ireland," and which authorizes the enfranchisement of Church property, provides for a settlement by arbitrators in cases in which the lessee may be dissatisfied with the amount demanded for enfranchisement. [Section 145.]

VIII. The Act 15 and 16 Vict., cap. 51, "to extend the provisions of the Acts for the commutation of manorial rights, and for the general enfranchisement of copyhold and customary tenure," and which authorizes the enfranchisement of copyholds, provides for a settlement by arbitrators in cases in which the lord and tenant cannot agree as to the amount to be paid for enfranchisement. [Section 2.]

IX. A Bill is now before Parliament to continue and amend an Act to facilitate the management and improvement of Episcopal and Capitular estates in England. [*Vide* Bill presented by the Lord President, and printed by the House of Lords.—Sess. Paper, 130.]

X. Neither the Episcopal and Capitular Estates Management Act of 1851, nor the Bill of 1854 for continuing that Act, contains any clause similar to those in the Irish Church Temporalities Act and the Copyhold Enfranchisement Act for a settlement of the terms of enfranchisement by arbitrators in cases in which the lessor and lessee, or the manorial lord and tenant, cannot agree upon terms. [*Vide* Act and Bill.]

The foregoing facts, respectfully submitted to the consideration of Parliament, it is hoped, will clearly and unanswerably evidence the necessity for the insertion in the Bill now before the Legislature of a power of arbitration (in cases in which the lessor and lessee cannot agree upon the terms of enfranchisement), similar to that which is contained in the Irish Church Temporalities and Copyhold Enfranchisement Act—it being evident that so far as the diocese of Durham is concerned, the Act of 1851 has been almost wholly inoperative.

The consequence to the diocese of Durham, from the delay, expense, and other obstacles to enfranchisement which unhappily exist, is that all improvements are at a standstill; that leasehold property, formerly considered as an excellent investment, is now almost unsaleable; that no mortgages can be effected or settlements charged as heretofore upon such property; and, as regards the great manufacturing communities on the banks of the Tyne, in the immediate neighbourhood of the great towns of Newcastle, Gateshead, North Shields, and South Shields, enterprise is paralyzed; capitalists who have already invested money in manufactories, docks, or other undertakings, on ground of ecclesiastical tenure, dare not improve or extend their works; and no new works are being erected, although urgently required by the increasing demands of commerce, because the most eligible sites for such erections are almost only

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to be found on property of either Episcopal or Capitular tenure.

Moreover, on the faith of that continuous renewal of leases which (as already shown) has existed for centuries, many persons have invested the savings of their lives so fully and entirely, that any interruption of the tenure, or refusal to enfranchise on fair and reasonable terms, would entail upon them little less than confiscation and ruin.

The whole town of South Shields (with few exceptions), with all its extensive manufactories, docks, and streets, has been created upon Church property—property which, had capitalists not built upon it, and which they did upon the faith of a tenure which they considered as inviolable as a freehold one, would have been at this moment either mere waste, or at best only employed for ordinary agricultural purposes.

Such being the case, the Church leaseholders of Durham, highly approving of the principle of the Bill now before Parliament for facilitating enfranchisement, sincerely hope that the Legislature will be pleased to render the measure perfect and complete (which at present it is not), by inserting in it the only means by which enfranchisements can be facilitated, in cases in which parties cannot agree upon the amount of money to be paid—viz., by providing for the appointment of arbitrators who shall decide upon the amount to be paid or received by the lessee or lessor of the property to be enfranchised.

Signed on behalf of the Church Leaseholders of the Diocese of Durham, this 21st day of June, 1824,

David Haggie, Mayor of Gateshead.
G. J. Kenmir, Town Clerk of Gateshead.
John Robinson, Mayor of South Shields.
Thomas Salmon, Town Clerk of South Shields.
George Robson, Mayor of Durham.
John Tiplady, Town Clerk of Durham.
Samuel Alcock, Mayor of Sunderland.
William Snowball, Town Clerk of Sunderland.
Francis Mewburn, Bailiff of Darlington.
R. Dodds, Mayor of Newcastle.
John Clayton, Town Clerk of Newcastle.
Joseph Lamb, President of the Newcastle, Shields, and Gateshead Chamber of Commerce.
Nicholas Wright, Mayor of Morpeth.
William Woodman, Town Clerk of Morpeth.
Matthew Poppelwell, Mayor of Tynemouth.
Thomas Carr Lietch, Town Clerk of Tynemouth.
R. W. Swinburne, South Shields.
William Anderson, South Shields.
J. C. Stevenson, South Shields.
James S. Forster, Gateshead.
George Hawks, Gateshead.
C. Allhusen, Gateshead.
W. H. Brockett, Gateshead.

THE GATESHEAD TOWN COUNCIL.

On June 17th, a special meeting was held in the Townhall. Present:—The Mayor (David Haggie, Esq.) in the chair; Aldermen Robson and Smith; and Councillors Ionn, Haggie (Peter), Cook, Hunter, Brinton, and Hymers.

Mr. Ald. Smith moved the adoption of a petition to parliament, and its transmission to Mr. Hutt for presentation, the substance being as follows:—

That a large portion of the ground most eligibly situated for commercial and manufacturing purposes within the borough of Gateshead is episcopal property, held under lease from the Bishop of Durham, and sublet by the episcopal lessee to various persons, who, from time to time, have erected large and costly manufactories and other buildings thereon.

That one of the present lessees and his ancestors have held the said property for nearly a century and a half, under a 21 years' lease, which has been renewed every year on payment of an accustomed amount of fine.

That the said lessee, on the faith of such renewal, has sublet the property on building leases for such a period as his current lease warrants, with a covenant to continue such lease for sixty years, and in some cases for a longer period, and that, until recently, no doubt or fear was ever entertained of the continuance of the long-existing system of renewal.

That recently, however, in consequence of certain doubts which have been expressed before committees of parliament, and elsewhere, of the strictly-legal right of the episcopal and capitular lessees in the diocese of Durham to those renewals which have been granted from time immemorial, capitalists refuse to expend money upon ecclesiastical property, either in the erection of new manufactories, for which the ground in question, lying as it does on the banks of the river Tyne, and closely adjoining the great towns of Newcastle and Gateshead, is most eligibly situated, or in the extension of existing works, upon which they have expended immense sums of money.

That the consequence is that the general trade of the whole river Tyne is seriously injured by the operation of the ecclesiastical tenures, preventing as it does a development of those resources which on freehold or enfranchised land would have been immediately made available.

That an Act was passed in 1851 to facilitate the management and improvement of episcopal and capitular estates in England; which Act provides for the enfranchisement of such estates in cases in which the lessors and lessees could agree upon such terms as met the approval of the Church Estates Commissioners; but the said Act contains no provision for ascertaining, by arbitration or otherwise, the sum to be paid or received for enfranchisement in cases in which the lessors and lessees cannot agree.

That so far as the diocese of Durham generally, and this locality in particular, is concerned, the Act of 1851 has been almost wholly inoperative; the fact being, that although numerous applications for enfranchisement have been made, both to the episcopal and ecclesiastical corporations, not one single enfranchisement has been made by the former, and only twenty-two by the latter, although the number of leaseholders in the diocese is immense, one manor alone containing not less than 800 leaseholders.

That a bill is now before your honourable house for continuing the said Act of 1851.

That for the reasons above stated it is most essential to the success of any Act for facilitating enfranchisement that it should contain a power of settling by arbitration the terms of such enfranchisement, in cases in which the parties interested cannot agree.

That both the Irish Church Temporalities Act and the Copyhold Enfranchisement Act contain such a provision.

Your petitioners therefore pray that your honourable house will be pleased to so amend the bill now before your honourable house that it may provide for settlement by arbitration in cases of non-agreement, upon terms between the ecclesiastical corporations and their lessees.

Mr. Peter Haggie seconded the adoption of the petition, and it was adopted accordingly.

The standing orders were then suspended, on the motion of Mr. Hymers, seconded by Mr. Brinton; and Mr. Ald. Smith moved the adoption of a petition against the Government Police Bill, "practically placing the entire control of the whole police of the kingdom in the hands of Her Majesty's Home Secretary." The motion was seconded by Mr. Ald. Robson, and carried unanimously; and the meeting then broke up.

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Now ready, Price 6d.,

ADVICE ABOUT AVERAGE, for the Benefit of Masters of Merchant Vessels. By WILLIAM HENRY BROCKETT, Stater of Averages at Newcastle, and Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

Price 1s.,

THE THREE WARNINGS; or, FACTS and FIGURES of the CHOLERA EPIDEMICS of GATESHEAD; with also the Mortality of Eighton Banks and the whole of the Chester-le-Street Union in 1849. The Statistics of each of the three Epidemics are given in detail, exhibiting the Number of Deaths per day, and the Locality in which every Death occurred; the Ages of the Victims; the Census of Victoria-street (in which the Mortality of 1853 commenced); and a variety of other particulars. By JAMES CLEPHAN.

London: Charles Mitchell.—Newcastle: Charnley, Turner, Barkas, &c. — Gateshead: Kelly and the *Observer* Office.

"Every one who has a spare shilling should possess himself of so instructive a chronicle of the operations of the modern plague. Who will give us a similar memento of the scourge in Newcastle!"—*Newcastle Chronicle.*

"An admirable collection of facts and figures. Those who love cleanliness and health owe the author something for the manner in which he has traced the close connection between dirt, overcrowding, and cholera."—*Hull Advertiser.*

"This pamphlet has been compiled with great judgment, persevering labour, and conscientious care, and has a wider than local interest. As a record of the arrival of the disease amongst us, and of its extension on the site it first chose for the commission of its ravages, it deserves an attentive consideration by every Sanitary Reformer." — *Leicester Chronicle.*

"The more prominent circumstances connected with the three attacks of cholera, in 1832, 49, and 53, are succinctly detailed—the number of deaths, and the localities in which they occurred, carefully recorded. Three ingenious typographical maps of the date and locality of each death during the three visitations are appended; and it is a work of melancholy yet instructive interest to mark the disease creep from street to street during its dread progress. The value of such a tabular form appears almost to surpass that of the ordinary maps, in which the mortality is marked by ominous black dots, because the incursions of the disease into the different localities are marked by dates, while the numbers which fall as it proceeds are indicated by figures."—*Newcastle Journal.*

GATESHEAD MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—The annual excursion took place on June 19, when upwards of 120 of the members and their friends visited Harrogate and Knaresborough, under the favouring influences of fine weather.

BOROUGHHOLDERS AND FREEMEN OF GATESHEAD.—At a meeting of the Boroughholders and Freemen, held at the Anchorage on June 19, Mr. Easton Robson, steward, was called to the chair. The Secretary, (Mr. Kenmir) read the minutes. The entire receipts had been £826 1s. 7½d., and the expenditure £673 15s. 5½d., leaving a balance of £152 6s. 2d. Mr. Kenmir, notwithstanding his appointment to the office of Town Clerk, was unanimously reëlected to the office of Secretary. Mr. Lumley was elected steward in the room of Mr. Alderman Listcr; and the following gentlemen were elected a committee to manage the property of the body:—Aldermen Lister and Robson, and Messrs. William Cook, Robert Lister, and Joseph Willis Swinburne. It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Cook, seconded by Alderman Robson, "That the Secretary be instructed to correspond with the Lord of the Manor, and obtain the appointment of an early day for the holding of a Court for the admission of recently-enfranchised members of this body."

SALE OF FREEHOLD HOUSE AND LAND, GATESHEAD.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, at Miss Murray's, Queen's Head Inn, Gateshead, on TUESDAY, July 4, at 5 for 6 o'clock precisely,

BY MR. CHARLES BROUGH,

LOT 1. All that substantially-built and newly-erected DWELLING HOUSE, being No. 13, Catherine-terrace, late in the occupation of George Straker, Esq., containing dining and drawing rooms, three bed-rooms, two attics, water closets, kitchens, and every other convenience, with Coach House and Stabling attached.

LOT 2. All that FIELD, or CLOSE of Grass Land, situate at Sheriff Hill, near the Old Cannon, containing 1A. 2R. 22P., now in the occupation of Mr. John Scott.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. JOHN BROWN & SON, Solicitors, Side; or to the AUCTIONEER.

SALE OF EXTENSIVE AND COMMODIOUS FREEHOLD COPPERAS WORKS, BRICK FIELD, DWELLING HOUSES, OFFICES, AND LAND, AT THE FELLING SHORE, NEAR GATESHEAD, IN THE COUNTY OF DURHAM.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, in One Lot, at the George Inn, Pilgrim-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on TUESDAY, the 25th of July next, at 2 o'clock in the Afternoon,

Mr. HOGGINS, AUCTIONEER,

All the above-named PREMISES, the Copperas Works being at present in operation and in the occupation of Messrs. Ca'ey. They possess an excellent frontage to the River Tyne, and are supplied with every essential for carrying on business on an extensive scale, having a large Reservoir, two Heaters, eight large Coolers, two Boilers, and a Steam Engine of eight horse-power.

There is a valuable Seam of Clay for making Bricks, six Dwelling Houses, Offices, and a quantity of Land, the whole covering an area of about Ten Acres.

For particulars apply to JOHN WILSON, Esq., Solicitor, York; or Messrs. ADAMSON & SONS, Solicitors, Newcastle, at whose Offices a Plan of the Property may be seen.

The premises may be inspected on application to the foreman at the works.

Newcastle, June 20, 1854.

THOMAS ROBSON,
SADDLER AND HARNESS MAKER,
GATESHEAD,

BEGS to thank his Friends and the Public for the kind Patronage he has received during the many years he has been in Business, and to inform them that he has returned to the Premises which he formerly occupied in the HIGH-STREET, adjoining the Queen's Head Inn.

The Rebuilding of the Property has given him increased accommodation for carrying on his Business, and he hopes to be able at all times to meet the wishes of his customers, whose continued support he respectfully solicits.

High-street, Gateshead, June 16, 1854.

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GATESHEAD POOR-LAW UNION.

BOARD ROOM, TUESDAY, JUNE 27.—Present:—The Vice Chairman (Alderman Robson) in the chair; and Messrs. Anderson, Murray, Cook, Brinton, Hodgson, Smith, Greene, and Sowerby.

The CLERK (Mr. J. W. SWINBURNE) read the minutes, and placed the customary papers on the table.

The number of inmates of the workhouse, during the fortnight, had been 158. Outdoor relief had been administered to 2,300 paupers in the first week, and 2,286 in the second, at a cost of £275 10s. In the corresponding weeks of 1853, the numbers were 1,965 and 1,939, and the cost £239 15s. 5d.

Cheques were issued to the amount of £799 1s. 10d. The Treasurer had a balance in hand of £956 10s. 7d., exhibiting a surplus of only £157 8s. 9d. Of the calls due on the 27th of May,

Ryton Woodside was in arrears.....	£29	13	10
Heworth	80	0	0
Winlaton	154	4	7
Whickham	327	0	0
	£590	18	5

Mr. R. W. HODGSON expressed his regret, after what had already been said, that it should be necessary again to complain of arrears; but Whickham grew worse instead of better. Here was nearly £600 due from four parishes, and upwards of half of it from Whickham. He must really move that the Clerk be instructed to make inquiry into the cause of this delay, and to proceed against the parishes, if necessary, by summons. The case of Whickham was startling, and called for explanation.

Mr. BRINTON seconded the motion. He was sorry that Whickham and Winlaton should always be in arrears.

Mr. COOK said, the Heworth collector was present, and could perhaps explain at once.

Mr. SILL said, there had been no delay on his part. The deficiency arose from the circumstance that no special rate had been levied for the cholera.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN said, a sufficient rate should have been laid to cover all requirements.

Mr. GREENE: The proposed course will compel the Overseers to do it.

Mr. SILL said, after some further conversation, that Heworth never used to be in this position till lately.

Mr. BRINTON: No; but Whickham has always been so.

Mr. HODGSON: And is getting worse.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. ANDERSON stated that Ryton Woodside had nothing in hand, and would not be in a condition to pay-up until after another rate had been laid.

Mr. HODGSON: A sufficient rate should have been laid.

Mr. ANDERSON: All will be paid-up next quarter.

The CLERK read a circular from the Haslingden union, enclosing a copy of a petition to parliament against the continuance of the Poor Law Board in London, and stating the annual cost of the Board to be £214,000. Mr. S. also laid on the table the Continuance Bill (prolonging the life of the Board to 1859), and a bill relating to the common charges of unions.

Mr. COOK alluded to the introduction of the Police Bill (now withdrawn) and other manifestations of a tendency to centralization, and proposed that parliament be petitioned for a limitation of the powers of the Poor Law Board. He would gladly have gone farther, but was afraid it would be of no use to pray for the abolition of the Board altogether.

Mr. BRINTON, concurring with Mr. Cook, seconded the motion.

Mr. Ald. SMITH and the VICE-CHAIRMAN said Mr. Cook had better go the whole length, when he was about it.

Mr. COOK said he would do so, as the Guardians seemed unanimous for total abolition.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN and Mr. SMITH disclaimed concurrence in the views of Mr. Cook.

The motion, as originally proposed, was adopted; and Messrs. Cook, Hodgson, and Greene were appointed, with the Clerk, to frame the petition.

Some other business was transacted, and the Board proceeded to the relief of the poor.

DURHAM CHURCH LEASEHOLDS.

THE Committee of the Newcastle and Gateshead District Association met on July 6th, in the Townhall, Gateshead, (John Greene, Esq., in the chair,) when the Secretary made a verbal report of the proceedings of Mr. Forster and himself since the last meeting. A "Statement of Facts" had been prepared for submission to the members of both houses of parliament, and it had received, besides other influential names, the signatures of the Mayors and Town Clerks of all the corporate towns within the diocese of Durham, except Stockton and Hartlepool, whose chief officers had not replied to the invitations addressed to them. A copy of this statement had been placed in the hands of all Her Majesty's Ministers and all the members of parliament for this district, as well as other gentlemen whom the Secretary and Mr. Forster had seen or communicated with in London, and who had expressed a desire to do justice in the matter; and when the bill had been read a second time (which might be within a week or ten days), it would be necessary to give the document a wider legislative circulation, and to have further interviews with members of parliament thereon.

Several letters were read from members of parliament and others, highly approving of the statement, and advising the association thereon.

The Committee resolved that the Secretary should take such further steps as might be necessary, when the proper time arrived, for conducting the matter, as far as possible, to a successful issue. It was the opion of the meeting, (as, indeed, it is in every quarter,) that the proposition for an arbitration being so obviously reasonable, and so precisely in accordance with the principle adopted in all the ordinary affairs of business, it could not, without an amount of inconsistency almost amounting to a denial of justice, be opposed.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.—At the monthly committee-meeting, held on July 4th, the ordinary business having been disposed of, a conversation arose on the building question, and much impatience was manifested in the absence of progress. A resolution was adopted suggesting to the Secretary the propriety of convening a meeting of the subscribers to the building fund, that some steps may be taken to induce an active movement towards the fulfilment of their wishes.

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THE GATESHEAD TOWN-COUNCIL.

MAYOR.	COUNCILLORS	
†Haggie, David	Allhusen, Chris.	†Hewitt, James
ALDERMEN.	†Brinton, George	†Hodgson, R. W.
Cummins, T.	†Cook, William	Hunter, George
Hawks, George	Crawshay, E.	†Hymers, J. A.
Lister, John	Douglas, William	†Ionn, F. P.
†Pearson, C. J.	Garbutt, C.	Patterson, G.
†Robson, Joseph	Gray, Alex. Geo.	Skelton, John
†Smith, James	†Haggie, Peter	†Vickers, John
		Wilson, James

☞ Those marked (†) were present.

TOWNHALL, JULY 5.—The minutes were read; also letter from Mr. Hutt, stating that he had presented, on the 20th ult., the petitions of the Council, adopted on the 17th, as to the Police Bill and the Episcopal and Capitular Estates Management Bill.

Mr. Ald. ROBSON presented a report from the Public Health Committee. As to the plans submitted by Mr. Potts of his proposed erections on the triangular piece of ground at the junction of Hills-street and Half-Moon-lane, they reluctantly assented to the trap-door entrances to the cellars, as they were within his own boundaries. With respect to the proposed construction of a range of cellaring underneath the footpath on the north side of Hills-street, they recommended that permission be granted, subject to an annual payment of £3; also, that leave be given to erect a hoarding, enclosing the scaffolding and building materials. On the subject of Mr. Wailes's application for permission to alter the level of the footpath near Caldwell Dean, and to substitute a pump for the well, the Committee recommended compliance on certain conditions, but "desired it to be understood that they guardedly abstained from reference to contemplated changes by Mr. Wailes in other roads mentioned in his application, these changes not coming properly under their consideration in connection with" the matter. Mr. Newall having applied for the consent of the Council, as Surveyors of the Highways, to a diversion of a public footpath at Team bridge near the point at which the stream is crossed by the railway company's viaduct, and the substitution of a shorter and more commodious footpath through an adjoining field, the report recommended that the requisite notice be given to the churchwardens to call a parish meeting, and that, if the meeting consented, the needful facilities be given to Mr. Newall. The Committee, having considered the memorial to throw open the Council Chamber to the ratepayers, recommended that, if its prayer were conceded, a subcommittee should be appointed to frame the necessary regulations and restrictions. The report closed with a reference to miscellaneous matters, and was then received.

Mr. COOK said, he observed that, among the accounts recommended by the report to be paid, was one of Mr. C. J. Pearson's for bricks, &c., amounting to £9 12s. 4d. Yet the Council had resolved, in the most emphatic terms, that no member of their own body should be allowed thus to violate the law.

Mr. Ald. PEARSON said, the charge was principally for allowing the Corporation to use his brickyard as a place of deposit for rubbish, there being great difficulty in finding depôts.

Mr. COOK must still protest against such items. It had become a great scandal, at one time, that so many members of the Council—one-third, if not one-half—were recipients of the money of which they were the guardians; and they must not go back to such a state of things. He had no personal feeling in the matter, but acted solely from principle.

Mr. HALL (Surveyor), being called upon, said the payment was one to which the Corporation became liable prior to the resolution referred to.

Mr. Ald. PEARSON said, he allowed Mr. Hall to deposit rubbish for the public convenience, and only charged 3d. a load. Elsewhere, they must have paid 6d. He had no wish that his brickyard should be so used.

Mr. HYMERS said it was certainly a great public accommodation. It was very difficult to find a place of deposit. He had had to pay 6d. himself.

The MAYOR agreed with Mr. Cook in principle, but thought the explanation was satisfactory.

Mr. HALL said, the stringent enforcement of the law rendered it sometimes difficult to meet the public exigencies in the best and most economical manner.

Mr. Ald. PEARSON hoped he would be troubled no more with the Corporation rubbish. (Laughter.)

Mr. HEWITT: We must just pay the market-price for what we require.

The subject dropped, and the clause in the report as to Mr. Potts's plans came on for consideration, and was discussed at considerable length. Mr. Potts, it appeared, proposed to devote a portion of his ground, 4 feet wide, to the construction of a footpath in Half Moon-lane, with cellar openings—and, under the footpath in Hills-street, to excavate cellars, for which the report proposed that he should be charged £3 per annum. Mr. Ald. SMITH, considering the devotion of part of the ground to the purposes of a footpath, thought that such a charge should not be made; and Mr. Ald. ROBSON, Mr. Ald. PEARSON, and Mr. HODGSON concurred. Mr. HYMERS, Mr. HEWITT, and others supported the recommendation of the Committee. Mr. Ald. PEARSON moved that the payment be a shilling, but was induced to say £2. Mr. Ald. SMITH, who had seconded the shilling, refused to second the £2; and Mr. HODGSON, to bring the matter to a vote, then seconded the motion; which was put and negatived by 6 to 3. Recommendation of Committee approved.

(Mr. Swinburne, solicitor for Mr. Potts, and Mr. Matthew Thompson, architect, were subsequently admitted to an interview. Mr. Swinburne stated that Mr. Potts, owing to the decision of the Council, would have to deposit new plans. His building would extend to his boundary line in Half-Moon-lane. He could lodge them at once, but that would not be regular: they must go before the Committee. Perhaps, however, the Council would allow him, in the meantime, to go on with excavations for drains, &c., within prescribed limits? The Council assented.)

The clause as to Mr. Wailes's proposals was adopted, with a proviso that he keep the pump in repair.

On the motion of Mr. Ald. ROBSON, seconded by Mr. Ald. PEARSON, the report, as amended, was adopted.

Mr. PETER HAGGIE, pursuant to notice, moved the admission of ratepayers to the meetings of the Council, subject to such conditions as might be agreed upon. If they desired to attend, he thought they should be allowed. He could not say that either they or the Council would be much benefited by the arrangement, although it might tend to keep the members up to their work. He believed that, in some other boroughs, the public were admitted.

Mr. HYMERS had great pleasure in seconding the motion. He saw no reason to be afraid of the admission of their constituents, and it might be a spur to them in the execution of their duty.

Mr. HODGSON was sorry that he could not agree to

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the motion. He was not conscious of needing any spur to the performance of his duty, and saw no reason why the motion should be adopted. Their meetings were open to the press; fair reports were given, and quite as full as could reasonably be expected; and, if the public were admitted, they would perhaps have much overcrowding, noise, and disturbance. The practice of parliament had been quoted by the memorialists as a precedent; but, in that case, they were admitted under stringent regulations; and if these were broken, there was an Usher of the Black Rod, or other officer, to take the offender into custody. Mr. H. pointed out the disorder which might result if persons were to come in a state of inebriation, and moved the previous question.

Mr. Ald. ROBSON seconded the amendment.

Mr. HEWITT said, he saw no reason to apprehend the evils anticipated by Mr. Hodgson; but, to meet them, they might create the Mayor Speaker, and Mr. Schorey Usher of the Black Rod. (Laughter.)

Mr. COOK was sorry that Mr. Hodgson should have objected to so reasonable a motion. He (Mr. C.) had mixed as much as most men with the people of Gateshead, and had witnessed none of those disgraceful exhibitions among the ratepayers which Mr. Hodgson dreaded. (Mr. Hodgson: I said the public.) The motion was confined to the ratepayers, and he was sure that Mr. Hodgson might dismiss his apprehensions. Go to the police or county court, to quarter sessions or assizes, and the public would be found in attendance, without hindrance to the discharge of public business. If the doors of the Council Chamber were thrown open, he believed that very few would come; but the attendance, small as it might be, would be beneficial. There was an impression abroad—he did not think it was very general—that the rates were not fairly and properly expended. Those who came would be able to judge for themselves, and would convey their impressions to others, and the Council would get more credit out of doors. He hoped that the amendment would be withdrawn, and that the proposed experiment might have a trial. If, at the end of six months, it were not found to work well, he would join Mr. Hodgson in opposition to the arrangement.

The MAYOR spoke in support of the motion. He did not think they had any right to exclude the burgesses, whose servants they were, and whose business they met to transact. He was afraid, if Mr. Hodgson's representations went abroad uncontradicted, people at a distance might think the ratepayers of Gateshead nothing better than Bosjesmans. (Laughter; with "No, no," from Mr. Hodgson.)

Mr. P. HAGGIE said, in reply to Mr. HODGSON, that if he spoke of the admission of the "public," he merely meant the ratepayers.

Mr. Ald. PEARSON supported the amendment. He saw no good that could accrue from admitting the ratepayers, but great annoyance. Their proceedings were surely public enough. There were three gentlemen of the press present that day.

Mr. IONN said, under proper regulations, there could be no inconvenience. Overcrowding could be prevented by limiting the number, and no man would be admitted who was not sober.

The Council divided:—

For the Amendment, 4.—Aldermen Robson, Smith, and Pearson, and Councillor Hodgson.

Against it, 7.—The Mayor; and Councillors Hymers, Haggie, Hewitt, Brinton, Ionn, and Cook.

Neutral, 1.—Councillor Vickers.

The original motion was put and carried; and, after some discussion, it was referred to the Finance Committee and Mr. Hewitt to make the necessary arrangements.

Some remark having been made, as to the probabilities of attendance on the part of the ratepayers, of which we got no distinct note,

Mr. COOK said, he hoped they would attend, even if the room were overcrowded, in which case they must enlarge their accommodations; which, he thought, might be a more commendable work than some of their building operations. Perhaps they would be more economical if the ratepayers came to their meetings.

Mr. HODGSON repelled the suggestion. He thought they were not chargeable with improper expenditure.

Mr. COOK said, being challenged to the proof, he would cite the borrowing of £3,500, and before any of the money was expended, upwards of £300 had to be repaid to the Commissioners. The money was borrowed at 4 per cent., and lodged in the bank at 2½. Was this economical?

Mr. HODGSON said, Mr. Cook had already had his answer. He was told, before, when he spoke of this matter, that they could only borrow this money in one sum. The Council did the best they could for the public in carrying out a public work.

A vacancy was now declared in the office of Alderman, and the Mayor named Thursday, July 13, as the day on which it should be filled up.

Mr. Ald. SMITH presented a report from the Finance Committee, which stated that, since the quarterly meeting in May, the first instalment of the Baths and Washhouses loan, amounting to £307 6s. 7d., for principal and interest, had been paid out of the Borough Fund. The Treasurer's books showed that on the Borough Fund he was £27 6s. 10½d. in advance. The mortgage debt of £1,000 secured on the Townhall, and £26 12s. 4d. for interest thereon, had been paid out of the Borough Fund since the last report was made; and as some hesitation had occurred in the advance of the contemplated loan of £500 to enable the Corporation to pay off this mortgage, the Committee recommended that an effort be made to free the property from debt altogether at once, and that the negotiation for the loan be considered terminated. The Committee further recommended that the usual borough-rate for *two* quarters be now levied, for which fourpence in the pound (twopence in aid of the watch rate and twopence for general purposes) would scantily suffice. The Committee had duly considered the estimate for a general district rate for the current half-year, calculated to include the ordinary highway rate, and to amount to threepence in the pound.

Mr. HAGGIE stated that the debt referred to in the report had been wholly discharged; and, in reply to Mr. HEWITT, that the borough-rate on small tenements would be charged simply one-half, as when collected with the poor-rate.

The report was received and adopted.

Mr. Ald. SMITH presented a statement as to the private improvement rate, from which it appeared that, with the exception of £46 arrears in the case of Grahamsley-street, the whole amount yet payable had been collected.

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It appearing that the collector had 2½ per cent. for the collection of this rate, Mr. Cook repeated his former suggestion that the persons who, declining to make necessary improvements themselves, threw the work upon the Council, should be charged with this per centage; but there was some doubt whether it could be exacted, and the general feeling seemed to be that the sacrifice was worth making for the sake of having streets and roads drained, paved, &c.

Mr. Ald. Smith stated that £400, forming the superannuated police fund, was lying at bank interest, and suggested an inquiry after a better investment. (Referred to the Watch Committee.) There was also, he said, £40 due from the Borough Justices.

Mr. Hymers inquired if the Clerk to the Justices accounted quarterly, as required?

The Town Clerk could not say. He had not, yet, been a quarter in office.

The Town Clerk read a report from the Superintendent of Police, Mr. Schorey, on the plan laid down by Mr. Superintendent Mitchell, of Tynemouth, as to a more uniform system of coöperation among the police-forces of Newcastle, Northumberland, and Durham. In all its main features, it appeared, Mr. Mitchell's plan was already in practical operation in Gateshead, so far as was possible in the absence of a general system.

The Town Clerk read a return, prepared at the recent request of the General Board of Health, "touching the expenses of the application of the Public Health Act, 1848, to the borough." The items were—£13 7s. to Mr. Nicholson, C.E., for maps for the preliminary inquiry; and £32 6s. to the Town Clerk for his journey to and attendance in London relative to the provisional order. The costs and expenses incurred by the General Board, for the preliminary inquiry and confirmation of the general order, were still owing by the Local Board. No charges had been made by any inspector, engineer, or other officer of the General Board. Except for the sewerage of the eastern district, the plans of which were not yet settled, no application had been made to the General Board as to works involving the raising of money and mortgage of rates.

Mr. Hodgson moved the suspension of the standing orders, that a petition to the House of Lords might be brought under consideration, praying for the admission of Dissenters to the full enjoyment of the universities.

Mr. Cook seconded the motion, and it was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Haggie then moved the adoption of a petition, to be signed by the Mayor on behalf of the Council, showing—

That the advantages which it is in the power of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge to confer on the nation, are, wholly in the one case, partially in the other, withheld from one-half of the community.

That your petitioners are of opinion that this invidious and injurious distinction has no foundation in justice, and ought to be abolished.

Your petitioners therefore pray that the Oxford University Bill, now before your Right Honourable House, may be passed in such a form as to place the whole of Her Majesty's subjects on an equal footing within the walls of that institution, and that, on some fitting occasion, the University of Cambridge may be similarly reformed.

Mr. Hodgson cordially seconded the motion, and it was adopted without a dissentient voice. The petition to be sent to Lord Brougham for presentation.

Mr. Cook moved that it be referred to the Public Health Committee to revise the acknowledgments payable to the Corporation. They had that day resolved, in acceding to a request made by Mr. Potts, to charge what they believed to be the full value for the privilege granted. Mr. Potts declined to accept the terms, but that made no matter. They had now laid down a rule, and were bound to revise their acknowledgments, and make them conformable to that rule. Many of these acknowledgments were of the most paltry character. In one case a person had actually built a house on a site for which he paid but an annual acknowledgment of a shilling. He moved that the acknowledgments be revised by the Public Health Committee, with a view to the attainment of a fair recompense, in every case, for the privilege granted.

Mr. Ionn seconded the motion, and (with the substitution of the Finance Committee) it was adopted.

The Mayor, after congratulating the Council on having heard such a good account of the private improvement rate, said it ought to encourage them to go on, and called attention to the wretched state of the foot-pavement in front of Mulgrave-terrace.—Referred to the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Hall, in reply to Mr. Hymers and Mr. Cook, stated that the Baths and Washhouses, all he could do, did not go on so rapidly as could be wished. The departures from the plan were not material—not more extensive than was commonly the case—and would not violate the contract. Mr. Brinton said, there was a rumour to the contrary—that the contractor, when urged to get on, or the penalty would be enforced, said it could not be done, the contract being broken.

Adjourned to Thursday, July 13.

Mr. G. S. Brady, of Gateshead, at the monthly meeting of the Photographic Society, held at the rooms of the Literary and Philosophical Society, Newcastle, July 7, (Dr. Embleton in the chair,) read a paper on the Applicability of Photography to the Delineation of Microscopic Objects. The paper was illustrated by a microscope, camera, and specimens of objects beautifully photographed. An interesting discussion followed. Mr. Warren also read a paper showing that photography was not a mere amusement, but of great practical utility. Mr. W. exhibited his portfolio, comprising an artistic picture of the church of St. Nicholas; which Mr. A. S. Stevenson (no mean judge) pronounced to be one of the finest specimens of the art that he had ever seen.

THE TRADE OF THE COUNTRY.

The official accounts, just published, furnish several remarkable as well as gratifying facts, considering that we are at war with one of the great Powers of the world.

In imports as well as exports, the figures are most favourable. In the former, we observe that the quantity of wheat imported has increased from 525,236 to 611,993 quarters on the month, and from 1,732,596 to 2,236,175 quarters on the five months, ending June 5, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1853:—that tallow, during the same periods, has increased from 35,805 to

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47,449 cwts. on the month, and from 161,292 to 202,352 cwts. on the five months; and hemp, from 38,250 to 94,005 cwts. on the month, and on the five months from 185,369 to 225,554 cwts.

In coffee, during both periods, the increase has bee also very great — as has also been the case in sugar and tea—viz. :—

	Month ended June 5,		Five Months ended June 5,	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Coffee (lbs.)	4,615,646	5,508,336	11,912,321	13,916,573
Sugar, (cwts.):—				
Unrefined ...	753,141	1,018,654	2,471,858	3,066,333
Refined	11,176	47,280	84,367	117,047
Tea (lbs.)	6,709,946	10,941,455	33,948,021	42,499,581

Of comforts, therefore, the Czar does not seem, by any means, to have as yet deprived us; and even in the brimstone of which the King of Naples so considerately wished to deprive us—to prevent us, we suppose, from burning our own fingers or anybody else's—we seem to have been importing pretty largely, the quantity on the month in 1853 having been only 38,935, and on the five months only 177,534 cwts., against 38,935 and 541,284 during the same periods of the present year. It may be, indeed, that the magnitude of the exports may have been actually the cause of the recent prohibitory proclamation; as, of course, some portion of it must have been used for other than peaceful purposes.

In the export trade the evidences of the returns are of an equally gratifying character — the total exports having increased in the enumerated articles from £7,123,193 to £7,532,648 on the month, and from £35,093,824 to £35,725,362 on the five months—making, with the unenumerated articles, this year, a total export of £8,422,196 on the one and £40,425,689 on the five months.

With the exception of linseed, hempseed, and rapeseed oils, there has been no decrease of much consequence in any of the great articles of our local manufacture.

The statistics of shipping tonnage are as follows :—

	Month.		*Five Months.*	
FOREIGN.	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Inwards	643,614	716,904	2,450,022	2,956,852
Outwards	666,416	768,626	2,804,652	3,205,521
COASTING.				
Inwards	1,149,239	1,126,388	5,429,263	5,236,975
Outwards	1,141,877	1,269,233	5,495,281	5,647,221

These facts and figures, we repeat, are most gratifying. Indeed, when viewed in connection with the hostilities in which we are engaged, and in reference to the effects of former wars, they can be regarded almost in no other light than as a commercial miracle.

GATESHEAD POOR LAW UNION.

BOARD ROOM, TUESDAY, JULY 11.—Present :—The Chairman (Mr. Cornelius Garbutt); and Messrs. Robson (Vice-Chairman), Brinton, Hodgson, R. Clark, Greene, W. Clark, and Thompson.

The CLERK (Mr. J. W. SWINBURNE) read the minutes and the notices of marriage.

The number of inmates now occupying the workhouse appear by the returns to be 160. Outdoor relief had been administered to 2,153 paupers in the first week, and 2,122 in the second, at a total cost of £258 4s. 3½d. In the corresponding weeks of 1853, the numbers were 1,946 and 1,925 respectively, and the total cost £250 15s. 10d.

Cheques were now issued to the amount of £322 17s. 6d. Of the arrears of call due at the last meeting (which were given in the *Observer* of the 1st inst.), it was reported that Heworth had since paid the whole amount, (namely, £80); Whickham had paid £37; Winlaton had paid £62 10s.; Ryton Woodside, *nil*; total, £179 10s. The arrears now remaining due are therefore :—

Ryton Woodside	£29	13	10
Winlaton	91	14	7
Whickham	290	0	0
Total	£411	8	5

The whole of these arrears were upon the second instalment of the call, due on the 27th of May; with the exception of a small proportion of the arrears of Whickham, which were upon the first instalment due on the 29th of April.

It appeared that the balance due to the Union at the bank was £376 7s. 6d.; which the amount of cheques now issued (£322 17s. 6d) would reduce to £53 10s.

The CLERK said that the Treasurer had to-day drawn his attention to the state of the account, and requested that it might be mentioned at the Board.

The CHAIRMAN said this was a very bad state to be in.

A GUARDIAN replied that he did not think so, seeing that they could meet their demands, and yet have a balance in hand.

The CHAIRMAN said that some accounts which ought to have been paid to-day had been purposely kept back in consequence of their financial position; and, moreover, the Board would want money before the next day of meeting. He also remarked that there was no call due: the money unpaid consisted wholly of arrears.

Mr. R. W. HODGSON inquired of the Clerk what had been done in pursuance of the resolution passed last board day.

The CLERK reported that he had written to the overseers of the four parishes in arrear, and read the letters he had received in reply. Heworth had discharged the whole amount, (as already stated). Ryton Woodside replied that notice had been given of a township meeting to make the quarterly rate, and the arrears would be forthcoming as soon as possible. Whickham replied that the rate for the last quarter would not amount to the sum required by the Guardians, but a rate would be made next Monday, which would be collected immediately; and it was hoped to pay off the balance before next board day. The assistant overseer was sorry that, having been unwell, he had not been able to collect the arrears of the last rate, but he had collected what he could this week. (This letter had been received by the Clerk about half an hour previous to his reading it.) Winlaton replied that a rate had just been made, from which it was hoped the balance would be paid before the next meeting of the Board.

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The VICE CHAIRMAN said he had been connected with this Board many years, and he had never known Whickham and Winlaton otherwise than in arrear.

Mr. HODGSON said such a state of thing could not be too loudly condemned, and he should never rest till it was put an end to. These parishes ought to lay sufficient rates to meet the demands upon them.

The CHAIRMAN: Has any gentleman any motion to make on the subject? Is this state of affairs to go on?

Mr. HODGSON said every indulgence had been shown to these parishes — in fact, he thought, much more than ought to have been shown. He certainly was very unwilling to resort to extreme measures; he did not like to throw fire into these parishes by summoning the collectors; but he feared the Board would not be doing right if it did not resort to some steps. After receiving these promises, he hoped that what had now been said would induce them to act, and not leave unfulfilled the hopes they had raised in their letters of reply.

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps you will put it in the form of a motion that the Clerk intimates to the churchwardens and overseers our reliance on their promises being fulfilled? Not to the collectors.

Mr. HODGSON: No, not to the collectors, but to the churchwardens and overseers. These gentlemen are liable for the arrears; and if they cannot get the money from the rates, they must find it themselves. Mr. H. then moved a resolution to the effect that if the amount of arrears be not paid before next board day, the Clerk should be instructed to summon the defaulting churchwardens and overseers before the magistrates without further notice.

Mr. BRINTON seconded the motion, expressing his hope that the amounts would be all paid up. — Carried.

The CLERK reported that in accordance with the resolution adopted at the last meeting a petition to the House of Commons had been drawn up, and transmitted to Mr. Hutt for presentation, praying the house, in considering the bill before parliament, to curtail the unconstitutional powers of the Poor Law Board and shorten the period of its continuance. The Clerk added, that the bill had since passed the House of Commons and had nearly gone through the House of Lords.

The CLERK reported, with reference to the insurance upon the workhouse, &c., that he had drawn the attention of the insurance office to the fact that the policy did not include any insurance on the new buildings; so that the circumstance of their being unacquainted with this might not prejudice or vitiate the existing policy. Some conversation took place on the rates of premium on the insurances effected by the Board; but no motion resulted. Mr. S. further reported that in accordance with the request of the Poor Law Board he had made two returns—one of the number of Guardians and paid officers of this union, and the other of the number of the several classes of paupers relieved in the union on the 1st inst., both as far as related to outdoor paupers and those in the workhouse. He had also received from the Clerk of the Peace letters enclosing the amount of the county and police rates.

A letter was next read from the Poor Law Board, in which they stated that they had been informed by Mr. Maynard, the district auditor, that at his audit for the half year ended Ladyday last, no bond was produced to him on behalf of William Laws, assistant overseer of Ryton Woodside; that one of the sureties to the bond of Mr. George Wardell, assistant overseer of Whickham, was dead; and that the security of Mr. Pattison, relieving officer, was that of the Guarantee Society. The Board therefore inquired whether Mr. Laws had now given security to the Guardians for the faithful performance of his duties; whether Mr. Wardell had provided a new surety in the room of the one deceased; and whether the security of Mr. Pattison was that of the British Guarantee Association, Waterloo-place, London.

It appeared that the first two of these questions could only receive a negative reply; whilst it was understood that Mr. Pattison's bond would be inspected to ascertain the address of the society which appeared upon it.

It was stated that Mr. Laws had been applied to, but he had not yet given the security; and the Chairman said he had himself spoken to Mr. Wardell the last time he was here, when he said he would provide the additional surety before the coming audit. That audit, however, had passed; and the Auditor had made this report to the Poor Law Board.

It was a general feeling in the Board that all the bonds should at once be completed satistactorily; and the Clerk was ordered to see that this was done.

The CLERK stated that another letter he had received from the Poor Law Board related to a matter of less consequence. He had thought it his duty to make an inquiry of the Board with reference to the following legal point:—In an account delivered to him by Mr. R. H. Wilson, one of the medical officers of the Union, for extra services during the quarter just ended, there was an item of £1 5s. for reporting on ten cases of lunacy "not in an asylum, registered hospital, or licensed house." The claim was made under the 66th section of the 16th and 17th Vict., cap. 97, (the Lunatic Asylums Act, 1853,) and the whole of the ten cases were paupers who, at the time of Mr. Wilson's visit and report, were resident and maintained in the union-workhouse. The 66th section authorized the payment of a fee of 2s. 6d. for each quarterly visit to each lunatic pauper not being in the workhouse, but was silent as to any remuneration when the visit and report were made in respect of any pauper resident in the workhouse. The Clerk had inquired whether the medical officer was entitled to any fee in respect of these ten visits and reports; and if so, to what amount? The Board's reply was that the medical officer could only claim a fee for reporting on the state of mind of a lunatic *not* being in the workhouse. Mr. Swinburne had therefore struck out the item.

It was remarked by the several Guardians that these visits did not form any portion of Mr. Wilson's contract:—therefore this decision was really imposing upon him extra duty for the same remuneration—a duty not contemplated when he undertook the office.

The VICE CHAIRMAN said Mr. Wilson certainly ought to be paid.

The CHAIRMAN observed that a recent act of parliament ordered these visits to be made quarterly to every lunatic pauper in the union, so that a similar case to the present would occur four times in the year.

Mr. HODGSON: I should say, as these duties were not in Mr. Wilson's contract, he is entitled to recover the amount by law.

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The conversation ended by the Clerk being ordered to write to the Poor Law Board pointing out the fact of these duties never having been contemplated in Mr. Wilson's contract. The charge was ordered to stand over, awaiting the Board's reply.

The feeling of the Guardians who spoke was decidedly in favour of recognizing the claim as a just and reasonable one. The CHAIRMAN said he believed Mr. Wilson was liable to a penalty of £2 it he did *not* make these visits; yet they were not allowed to pay him for so doing.

A letter had been received from the Whitehaven Union inquiring if the provisions of the Nuisances Removal Act had been put into operation in this union; and if so, what remuneration was allowed to medical and other officers for the additional duties; also inquiring whether the Board purposed putting the act in operation if it had not already done so. The Whitehaven Board purposed to remunerate their officers for extra duties, but desired to learn the practice in other unions. The Clerk was instructed to reply that it had been the custom of this union to employ an extra officer occasionally when required, and he had been paid by the union—this course rendering extra payment to the regular officers unnecessary.

The CHAIRMAN observed that part of the union was under a Board of Health:—all the other portions were under this Board.

Mr. R. CLARK gave notice of his intention to bring before the Board at the next meeting a subject which he regarded as one of importance, and entitled to great consideration—namely, the propriety of having a building attached to every union house for the reception of lunatic paupers. He did not say that the charges for lunatic maintenance were large or exorbitant; but he thought there were charges which might be considered extraordinary in their character. Such a proposal as he suggested only wanted a beginning, and it would not be long before it would be generally carried into effect. For instance, this Board might amalgamate with the Guardians for All Saints'; and every union in England might have its own lunatic asylum, appointing proper officers to take care of the inmates. He should bring the subject before the Board at its next meeting.

A letter was read from Mr. Brown, surgeon, of Winlaton, drawing the attention of the Board to his claim of £11 for medicine and attendance on cholera patients in September and October last. It would appear by his letter that £5 had previously been offered to him in discharge of his claim. He mentioned the names of two unappointed surgeons who had been paid in full, and stated that he conceived the Guardians were acting with partiality in making such an offer to himself, and he considered their treatment illiberal.

The VICE CHAIRMAN: Either this or a similar letter has been here three or four times.

Mr. BRINTON: The claim was disposed of by a committee appointed to consider these bills; and to take up a thing twelve months afterwards would be folly.

The letter was ordered to lie upon the table.

One or two other matters of routine were disposed of; and the Board afterwards proceeded with the relief cases.

The future destiny of the child is always the work of the mother.—*Napoleon.*

THE GATESHEAD TOWN-COUNCIL.

TOWNHALL, THURSDAY, JULY 13.—An adjourned meeting was held to-day, at which all the existing members of the Council were present, save four (Messrs. Allhusen, Cook, Garbutt, and Gray).

The TOWN CLERK read a note from Mr. W. H. Brockett, in London, apprising him of the reception by Lord John Russell, on Wednesday, of a powerful deputation, comprising fifty members of parliament, pressing upon the Government the introduction of an arbitration clause into the Episcopal and Capitular Estates Management Bill.

The Council proceeded to the election of an Alderman in the place of Mr. Thomas Cummins. The votes were given as under:—

For the Mayor, 9.	*For Mr. Hodgson*, 9.
The Mayor.	Alderman Hawks.
Alderman Lister.	Alderman Robson.
Alderman Pearson.	Alderman Smith.
Councillor Brinton.	Councillor Crawshay.
Councillor P. Haggie.	Councillor Hunter.
Councillor Hewitt.	Councillor Hodgson.
Councillor Hymers.	Councillor Patterson.
Councillor Ionn.	Councillor Vickers.
Councillor Skelton.	Councillor Wilson.

The numbers being equal, it devolved upon the Mayor to give the casting vote; and he said he would not be doing justice to the friends who had so kindly voted for him if he did not decide in their favour by voting for himself. He gratefully thanked them for electing him, but must also express his regret that a vacancy should have taken place. Mr. Cummins had been, he believed, a member of that body from the commencement; and he was sorry that any circumstances should have occurred to deprive the public of his services. He (the Mayor) could assure the Council that he would do everything in his power properly to discharge his duties.

The new ALDERMAN having made the customary declaration, the TOWN CLERK gave a verbal report from the Public Health Committee, assenting to the new plans lodged by Mr. Potts.

Mr. HEWITT presented a memorial from manufacturers, tradesmen, and other inhabitants of Gateshead, (signed by the leading firms and individuals of the borough,) on the subject of the Newcastle thorough-toll, chargeable on cattle, goods, and merchandise entering or leaving that town, and not belonging to freemen—the amount being doubled at the times of holding the Newcastle fairs. The memorialists prayed that the Council would bring the matters under the consideration of the Corporation of Newcastle, with a view to some abatement of the evil. Mr. H. moved that the memorial be received, and that it be brought under the consideration of the Newcastle Council. It was worded in the most respectful language; and certainly it indicated a most philosophical spirit in the memorialists that they could speak so calmly of the exaction, when it was considered that they enjoyed no equivalent in return. Objectionable enough at any time, the toll was doubled on every article at the fairs, for the space of two weeks.

Mr. Ald. SMITH seconded the motion, and suggested that the memorial should be presented by two members of the Council and the Town Clerk. He believed it would be favourably received by a majority of the Newcastle Council, who were wishful that something should be done.

The motion, in the form suggested by Mr. Smith,

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was adopted; and it was resolved that Messrs. Hewitt and Smith accompany the Town Clerk.

Mr. PATTERSON said, the toll was, in reality, in many cases, more than double in the fair weeks. So far as he and others were concerned, they paid double, all the year round, on almost everything they used. The raw material, received by shipping, was tolled on its admission to the borough, and the manufactured article was taxed again in going out; and at fair times the toll was quadrupled.

Mr. Ald. PEARSON thought that this was not an improper time to draw attention to the toll on the Windmill Hills. The Council, while asking the Corporation of Newcastle to remove a grievance from Gateshead, should reciprocate. It was too bad that the toll on the Hills should be doubled on Newcastle people.

The MAYOR said, the toll was certainly a nuisance.

Mr. HODGSON observed, that it was a toll with which the Council had nothing to do; while, as to the thorough toll, it was an evil by which Newcastle as well as Gateshead suffered.

Mr. Ald. SMITH said, the Council had attempted, over and over again, to get the evil, alluded to by Mr. Ald. Pearson, abated. The gate ought to be removed from the Hills altogether, and placed farther away.

The MAYOR, pursuant to notice, brought under consideration the state of the flagging in front of Mulgrave-terrace. There was some difference of opinion as to whether the responsibility of placing it in proper order belonged to the public or to the owners of the houses. After some discussion, during which Mr. Hall read a report which he some time ago presented on this subject, it was unanimously resolved that the whole matter, including Melbourne and Victoria-streets, &c., should be referred to the Public Health Committee.

Mr. PETER HAGGIE inquired what was being done as to the sewerage of the eastern district; and when it appeared that, after receipt of the plans, nothing had been heard from the General Board of Health, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Ald. HAWKS, that the Town Clerk be instructed to write and ask if any more information was required; and if so, that the Board be urged to send down some engineer to obtain it on the spot. Mr. BRINTON said, if the cholera were again to break out, the Board of Health would be the first to find fault with the local authorities. Mr. Ald. SMITH referred to the heavy cost of the cholera in Gateshead and Newcastle, brought upon the two towns by their own fault. Mr. HEWITT asked if it were certain that sanitary measures would prevent the cholera. Mr. P. HAGGIE said he had no doubt that the epidemic was owing to overcrowding and filth. The MAYOR said, the whole town should be properly sewered and drained, and the work should go on all at once. He would much rather pay for cleanliness and comfort than invite disease and pestilence by neglect. Mr. Ald. BOBSON agreed with the Mayor. They were now supporting the widows and orphans of persons who died of the cholera, and the sooner the town was put in a proper state the better.

Some routine business was transacted, and the meeting broke up.

The number of shilling visitors to the Crystal Palace, which on Monday was 12,981, on Tuesday amounted to 13,699.

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Alderman of the West Ward of this Borough has appointed MONDAY, the 17th day of JULY inst., for the ELECTION of a COUNCILLOR for the said West Ward, to supply the vacancy occasioned in the Office of Councillor for such Ward by the Death of the late William Douglas.

And Notice is also hereby given, that the said Alderman has appointed WEDNESDAY, the 19th day of July instant, for the ELECTION of a COUNCILLOR for the West Ward aforesaid, in the room and place of David Haggie, Esq., who was elected an Alderman on the 13th day of July instant.

Each Election will be held before the Alderman and Assessors of the West Ward, at the POLICE COURT ROOM in the TOWNHALL. The Voting will commence at Nine o'clock in the Forenoon, and will finally close at Four o'clock in the Afternoon of the same day. The Presiding Officer is authorized to Close the Poll at any time before Four o'clock, if one hour shall have elapsed during which no vote shall have been tendered for any Candidate.

G. J. KENMIR, Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Gateshead, 14th July, 1854.

TO THE

MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE WEST WARD OF THE BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—A Vacancy having occurred in your Ward, I, at the request of a large number of the Burgesses, respectfully offer myself as a Candidate for your Suffrages, being thoroughly liberal in my political opinions, whether as regards Civil or Religious Liberty. Deeply interested in the good and cheap government of the borough, I shall, in the event of being elected, practise the most rigid economy in the expenditure of the rates; and though friendly to all necessary improvements which have for their tendency the general advantage of the community, I shall resolutely oppose any unnecessary outlay or attempted extravagance on the part of the Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your very obedient servant,

BRYAN JOHN PROCKTER.

Gateshead, July 14, 1854.

P.S.—The Election will take place at the Townhall, on MONDAY, the 17th instant, at 9 o'clock in the morning.

TO THE

MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE WEST WARD OF THE BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—Recent events having rendered it necessary to elect two Representatives for your Ward in the Town Council of the Borough, I am induced, at the request of a number of respectable Electors, to offer myself as a Candidate for the Vacancy occasioned by the Election of the Mayor, David Haggie, Esq., to the Office of Alderman.

Being essentially Liberal in my political principles, I shall endeavour, to the utmost of my ability, if elected, zealously to forward all measures calculated to promote the general welfare of the community, whilst, at the same time, I shall exercise a vigilant watchfulness over the public expenditure, with a view, especially, of lightening the Local Rates.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

JOHN WOOLSTON.

39, High-street, Gateshead, July 14, 1854.

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THE GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.

On Wednesday, July 19, a special meeting of the subscribers to the Building-Fund and of the governors of the Gateshead Dispensary, was held at the Townhall, "to decide *what was to be done* relative to procuring a building for the charity, and *to do it*." There was a most influential meeting, comprising the Mayor (David Haggie, Esq.), Rector (Dr. Davies), Lord of the Manor (Cuthbert Ellison, Esq.), and several of the Magistrates, Aldermen, and Councillors of Gateshead.

The Rector moved that the chair be taken by the Worshipful the Mayor. Seconded by John Barras, Esq., J.P., and unanimously carried.

The Mayor having briefly called attention to the benevolent object of the meeting,

The Secretary (William Kell, Esq.) made a verbal report, in which mention was made of the munificence of the Lord of the Manor, the courtesy of the Bishop, and the strange neglect of the Auditor of the See, which had deprived the charity of a site. Mr. Kell read a letter from the Treasurer of the Building Fund (John Greene, Esq.), absent from home, reporting, on behalf of the Site Committee, that Mr. Swinburne's residence in West-street was on sale, and he thought it would be an eligible purchase. The building fund amounted to more than one-half the price, and he was confident the remainder would readily be subscribed—especially taking into account the liberal assistance which would be rendered by the working population employed in the various manufactories of the borough. The Secretary said, the whole property alluded to by Mr. Greene could be had for £1,500.

Mr. Kimpster, Treasurer of the Dispensary, to show how warm a feeling there was in favour of the charity, stated that, by very little personal exertion, he had obtained, since his appointment, an addition of more than £37 to the annual income.

William Hymers, Esq., J.P., a member of the Site Committee, reported the proceedings of himself and colleagues; named the various sites which they had inspected; and, having some doubt whether the building fund could be applied to the purchase of existing property, suggested the propriety of erecting a Dispensary on a site in Nelson-street.

Mr. F. P. Ionn was in favour of the suggestion thrown out by the Secretary and Treasurer of the Building Committee, and moved the following resolution:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is desirable to procure Mr. Swinburne's house in West-street for the purpose of a Dispensary, and to purchase it for that purpose at the price of £1,500."

Mr. James Clephan seconded the motion. Mr. Swinburne's house was remarkably well-situated; if they were to build, they would hardly escape at a less cost; and, in making the proposed purchase, they would have as good and good-looking a building as they could hope to attain by a special erection. (Mr. Ellison: Better.)

The motion was unanimously adopted; with an addition combining the Building and Dispensary Committees in one for the carrying out of the object of the meeting.

Mr. Ellison then said, he was happy to think the meeting had come to so desirable a resolution. He had no doubt that the purchase money would be raised; and, if necessary, he would cheerfully add to his own subscription (£300). That subscription was not yet paid, but might be had at any time; and as, he saw, some of the other subscribers had been beforehand with him by two years, he would pay two years' interest on the amount. (Applause.) It was now, he continued, fifty years since he first became connected with Gateshead by property. He had not, before, enjoyed a public opportunity of celebrating the anniversary, but would now do so, in part, by making a donation of £50 to this excellent charity. (Applause.) He would also, if he might be allowed to digress from the object of the meeting, make another proposal. He held the flags of the old Gateshead Volunteers—a corps to which he owed his first connection with the borough of Gateshead; and these flags he would be happy to present to the Corporation at some convenient opportunity. (Applause.) He was now about to repair to Harrogate. At any time which the Mayor might name on his return, he could have the pleasure of waiting on the Corporation, and presenting the flags. (Applause.)

The Rector moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Ellison, and alluded to his cheerful and continual support of every good work in Gateshead.

Mr. Joseph Kimpster seconded the motion. (Carried by acclamation.)

Mr. Ellison returned thanks, and took a grateful retrospect of his long connection with the borough. He congratulated the inhabitants on the great improvements which had taken place during the last half-century, and said it was a source of much satisfaction to himself that he had had some share in promoting them. He would refer, particularly, to the enclosure of the Fell, by which a wilderness had been converted into a garden, and to the new road along the vale of Ravensworth.

Thanks were voted to the Secretary (the founder of the building fund), and to the Mayor (who put down his firm for ten guineas); and the very gratifying proceedings of the meeting came to a close.

Already, however, before the assembly dispersed, there was a new movement on foot:—namely, to have a public dinner on the presentation of the colours.

West Ward of Gateshead.—The vacancy in the Council, created by the death of Mr. William Douglas, was supplied on July 17, by the unopposed return of Mr. Bryan John Prockter to represent the burgesses of the West Ward. The second vacancy, arising from the appointment of the Mayor to the office of Alderman, led to a contest in many of its features amusing, and in some of them far from dignified. Mr. John Woolston was the first to offer himself; and then followed Mr. William Dingwall. Handbills were also issued announcing Mr. Thomas Tucker and Mr. Thomas Young (the latter best known as Tom the Barber). But there were only two real candidates—Mr. Woolston and Mr. Dingwall. The poll took place on July 19th, in the Townhall, before Mr. Alderman Lister and Messrs Richard Young and James Snowball (Assessors)—the contest closing at 1 o'clock, when the numbers were:—

Mr. John Woolston	127
Mr. William Dingwall	42
Majority	85

The Lord of the Manor of Gateshead.—Among other munificent gifts of Cuthbert Ellison, Esq., in aid of the charitable institutions of this parish, we have to record that, in the course of the present week, he intimated to the Rector his desire to take upon himself the whole expense of building the proposed school in connection with St. Cuthbert's church, amounting to the sum

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mated to the Rector his desire to take upon himself the whole expense of building the proposed school in connection with St. Cuthbert's church, amounting to the sum of £400. Thus a commodious school house will be erected for the education and religious instruction of the children of the working classes of the western part of this parish; and the money already subscribed by other parties, somewhat exceeding £200, will be appropriated to the very desirable object of building a master's house. It will be in the recollection of many of the inhabitants of this parish, that, a few years ago, the first stone of St. Cuthbert's church was laid by Mr. Ellison, assisted by his late amiable and much-attached daughter, Lady Vernon; and we understand that it is in commemoration of that event, as well as in grateful recollection of this being the fiftieth year since his coming into actual possession of his property in the parish of Gateshead, that he has placed at the disposal of the Rector the above noble gift for the erection of another school. Such acts of rare generosity deserve to be recorded, and will, we doubt not, be kept in grateful memory throughout future generations.

DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH.—Mr. R. S. Newall, of Ferndene, Gateshead, having expressed to the Council, in their capacity of Surveyors of Highways, his wish to divert a footpath near the Team, his application was referred to the Churchwardens, that they might take the sense of the inhabitants under the statute of William the Fourth. With this view, the three Churchwardens, Messrs. C. J. Pearson, Jonathan Robson, and Philip Smith, (Mr. F. J. Crow, the fourth, being dead,) convened a vestry meeting for Thursday, the 20th inst. Mr. Councillor Ionn—who, since the meeting was convened, had been appointed Rector's Churchwarden—was called to the chair. Mr. Pearse, Vestry Clerk, read the Town Clerk's letter and Churchwardens' notice; and Mr. J. W. Swinburne, on behalf of Mr. Newall, submitted a plan on which was laid down the present and proposed road—the former running through a field close to the Team rivulet, on the side farthest from Mr. Newall's wire-rope works—the latter intersecting the same enclosure, at a greater distance from the stream, and being slightly shorter than the existing pathway. Mr. Newall's object is, we believe, that he may erect works for the manufacture of wire by the side of the Team, opposite to his present establishment. The meeting unanimously assented to his proposal. It will still be necessary, however, that two Justices should make a view, and that the Court of Quarter Sessions shall assent to the diversion.

MRS. HERBERT'S SCHOOL will be REOPENED on MONDAY, July 24.
2, Woodbine-place, Gateshead.

MISS BENNETT'S SCHOOL will be REOPENED on TUESDAY, the 25th inst.
Romulus-terrace, Gateshead, July, 1854.

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

NOTICE is hereby given, that on the Seventeenth day of July instant, BRYAN JOHN PROCKTER, of Gateshead, Glue Manufacturer, was declared duly elected a Councillor for the West Ward of the said Borough, to supply the vacancy occasioned in the Office of Councillor for the said Ward by the Death of the late William Douglas.

And that, on the Nineteenth day of July instant, JOHN WOOLSTON, of High-street, Grocer, was declared duly elected a Councillor for the said West Ward, in the room and place of David Haggie, Esquire, who was elected an Alderman of the said Borough.

Dated this Nineteenth day of July, 1854.

G. J. KENMIR, Town Clerk.

TO THE
MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE WEST WARD
OF THE BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—You were kind enough to elect me one of your Representatives in the Town Council on the 17th inst., for which please to accept my warmest thanks, and be assured I shall endeavour to deserve the confidence you have so generously reposed in me.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
BRYAN JOHN PROCKTER.

Gateshead, July 18, 1854.

TO THE
MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE WEST WARD
OF THE BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—Allow me to return you my most sincere thanks for the honour you have done me in electing me one of your Representatives in the Town Council. The very general confidence evinced by the result of the poll, combined with so many kind expressions of your approbation during my canvas, afford me the deepest gratification, and will stimulate me to a faithful discharge of my public duties.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your very obedient Servant,
JOHN WOOLSTON.

39, High-street, Gateshead, July 19, 1854.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GATESHEAD OBSERVER.

SIR,—There were one or two features in the proceedings of the Gateshead Council, on the 13th July, of a gratifying character.

1. The Mayor brought under the consideration of his colleagues the state of the flagging in front of Mulgrave-terrace, with a view to its amendment:—a much-needed improvement. As for the difference of opinion on the question of liability, there should have been none, the law being so plain. It is not enough that private individuals flag their fronts or pave their streets:—they must invite the authorities to inspect the work; and, until it has been approved and adopted by the public, its maintenance and reparation cannot become a charge on the rates. The Board of Health should instruct the Surveyor to report *all* the footpaths and roads that require to be repaired or made by a private improvement rate, and have the whole work done at once.

2. The Mayor urged the Board to set about the sewerage and drainage of the town wholesale. And why not? As the cost must be borne by a district rate, there can be no need for postponing the work in the West until it is done in the East. It is to be regretted that the Eastern sewerage should have been so long delayed, through the rejection of the Surveyor's

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The candidates who have come before the West Ward burgesses have all chorussed "economy" as their motto. A very good "cry," but I see not the justice with which it is raised. It seems to me—and the Mayor and his brother are evidently of the same opinion—that the Council require the spur more than the bit; and I doubt whether the burgesses think any better of candidates who, instead of pleading the claims of the people to purer and more comfortable homes, base their pretensions to the support of the ratepayers mainly on their saving virtues. One of them urges "the necessity of discontinuing the discreditable practice of paying enormous salaries to persons as useless as they are unnecessary." Who are these "persons?" The salaried municipal officers are the town-clerk, surveyor, treasurer, and police-superintendent. Some of these servants, the burgesses have been told, are "useless" and "unnecessary," and have "enormous salaries." If so, they should be dismissed; and the Council also, for creating and continuing sinecures, should be sent to the rightabout. But, until the "persons" are named, I shall take leave to regard the charge as a piece of claptrap—a mere bait for the vote of

A BURGESS.

Gateshead, July 17, 1854.

GATESHEAD POOR LAW UNION.

BOARD ROOM, JULY 25.—Present:—The Chairman (Mr. Garbutt), Vice-Chairman (Mr. Ald. Robson), and Messrs. Joseph Anderson, William Cook, James Smith, George Brinton, R. W. Hodgson, William Clark, Robert Clark, and J. B. Makepeace.

The CLERK (Mr. J. W. Swinburne) read the minutes; also, the financial statement. With the exception of Whickham, due £190, all the parishes had paid up their calls; and Ryton had paid £20, and Winlaton £84 12s. 6d., of the call due July 29. Gateshead, also, the Clerk believed, had that morning made a payment in advance (£100). The Treasurer had £364 2s. 2d. in hand. The cheques to be issued amounted to £329 9s. 3d. Surplus, £39 12s. 11d.

There was some conversation as to what should be done with Whickham; which ended in an instruction to the Clerk, moved by the VICE-CHAIRMAN and seconded by Mr. HODGSON, to apply on Tuesday week for a summons against the Overseers for whatever sum might then be due, unless the £190 should in the meantime be paid.

The CLERK read a memorandum inserted in the Visitors' Book by Inspector Hurst, reporting favourably of the workhouse, but making some suggestions for the correction of overcrowding in the juvenile department. He also remarked that it was impossible the clothing account could be kept with accuracy while inmates were allowed to wear the garments of deceased paupers.

Some of the Guardians were curious to know what the Inspector would do with the garments; and it was stated that he was supposed to be in favour of giving them to deserving outdoor paupers. Mr. W. CLARK thought he was one of those economists who would save at the tap and lose at the bunghole. (A laugh.)

Some routine business, as to the securities of union officers, having been disposed of, the CLERK read a letter from the medical officer of the northern (or town) district of Gateshead:—

Gateshead, July 25, 1854.

DEAR SIR,—I have received from Mr. Swinburne a cheque for £5 12s. 6d. in discharge of my account. The law, it seems, which imposes upon me the duty of periodically reporting upon the state of the lunatic inmates of the workhouse, makes no provision for remuneration; and hence my fee is not included in this cheque. As I have twice before received this fee, now declared to be illegal, ought I not to return it? I think so, and am quite willing that the amount should be deducted. At the same time, as the law throws upon me duties not contemplated in my contract, it appears to me that I should, in some way or other, be recompensed for their performance. But this is a matter which I leave altogether with the Board.

I remain, dear Sir, your obedient Servant,

The Chairman of the Board. R. H. WILSON.

The Guardians did not think it necessary that Mr. Wilson should be called upon to return any payments which had been allowed; nor, on the other hand, did they see how they could at present remedy the injustice pointed out in his note; but Mr. R. CLARK observed that this matter could be put right at the next letting of the contracts, and the CHAIRMAN concurred.

The CLERK read a letter from Messrs. Kell & Apedaile, solicitors, as follows:—

40, High-street, Gateshead, July 19, 1854.

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Richard Counsellor has placed in our hands his account against the Guardians of the Gateshead Union for medicines and services during the visitation of cholera in September and October last, with instructions to apply for payment of the balance of £158 0s. 6d. due to him; and you will oblige us by laying this application before the Guardians at their next meeting.

We remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

J. W. Swinburne, Esq. KELL & APEDAILE.

This letter led to a brief conversation. Mr. W. CLARK stated, in answer to inquiries, that the Heworth Guardians had decided in favour of a payment of £100, which they considered amply sufficient:—Mr. Counsellor had been called upon to furnish particulars, but did not comply, saying that it was impossible he could do so. The VICE-CHAIRMAN said, he thought Mr. Counsellor had been very well paid already. After some discussion as to the course to be pursued, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. HODGSON, that a call be made for particulars.

Mr. R. CLARK, to afford the Guardians more time for consideration deferred the motion of which he had given notice, having for its object the attainment of powers to erect a lunatic ward in connection with the workhouse, by means of petitions to parliament from Boards of Guardians.

The Board presented to the relief of the poor.

THE GATESHEAD TOWN-COUNCIL.

MAYOR.	†Brinton, George	Hymers, J. A.
†Haggie, David	†Cook, William	†Ionn, F. P.
ALDERMEN.	†Crawshay, E.	Patterson, G.
†Hawks, George	Garbutt, C.	†Prockter, J. B.
Lister, John	†Gray, Alex. Geo.	Skelton, John
Pearson, C. J.	Haggie, Peter	Vickers, John
†Robson, Joseph	†Hewitt, James	Wilson, James
†Smith, James	†Hodgson, R. W.	†Woolston, John
COUNCILLORS	Hunter, George	
Allhusen, Chris.		

☞ Those marked (†) were present.

TOWNHALL, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2.—A quarterly meeting was held to-day. The TOWN CLERK reported the election of Mr. Prockter and Mr. Woolston, and it was resolved that each of them be placed on three committees.

Mr. Ald. SMITH presented a report from the Finance Committee. The Treasurer was in advance on the Borough Fund account to the extent of £56 4s. 7d., and the accounts to be paid amounted to £41 18s. The balance of a watch rate, amounting to about £130,

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meeting them. He would take his leave of them, earnestly praying that the many blessings which they enjoyed, to some of which he had alluded, might long remain to them. His career of ambition was now done. His only remaining care was to keep the flame from wasting which still continued to burn. In his retirement his heart would be always with them; and, during the short remainder of his days, his ambition would be to assist, as far as lay in his power, in whatever works of usefulness were going on amongst them, and to be remembered with respect when he was gone. (Applause.) Mr. Ellison, at the close of his speech, placed on the table a written address, embodying his sentiments:—

Mr. Mayor,—It is with much gratification I visit the Mayor and Town-Council of Gateshead to carry out the offer I recently made on a public occasion in this hall. The colours of the regiment of Gateshead Volunteer Infantry have remained in my possession as the commanding officer of the corps since it was disbanded after the General Peace of 1814. During the long interval that has since elapsed, the population and commercial importance of your borough have, I am glad to say, largely increased. Evidences are readily found which strikingly testify the progress of the country at large, as well as the borough of Gateshead, during that period. The railways which intersect this town and depart from its northern boundary by the High Level Bridge—the enfranchisement of the town as a parliamentary borough and the institution of its municipal government—are common but apposite instances of the changes and benefits which, in a good community, a continuance of peace confers. Allow me to hope that, with the blessings peace has happily brought to us all, there is the same amount of loyalty to the throne and readiness to stand by the institutions of our country which animated the regiment of Gateshead Volunteers, whose officer I was, and whose colours I now commit to the good keeping of the Mayor and Corporation of Gateshead.

The Mayor read the following reply:—

Sir,—I sincerely thank you for the kind gift of the colours of the regiment of Gateshead Volunteers which you have made to the Corporation of Gateshead. The colours have an increased value at this peculiar juncture, and are agreeable and honourable memorials of the loyalty of our fellow-townsmen of a generation now passing away.

Lamenting as I do that the progress of social improvement and mercantile enterprise should for a time in some measure be retarded by the ambition of a Prince powerful for good or for evil, I cannot help congratulating the borough of Gateshead that the opportunity gave occasion to show that the right spirit still animated its inhabitants.

It is true that the Gateshead Volunteers have not been organized again; but the readiness with which the town recently supplied more than its full quota of "good men and true" for the new Militia, fully establishes the claim of the borough to participate in the old reputation of the Gateshead Volunteers.

On the part of the Corporation and myself, I have to thank you for the compliment which your selection of this corporate body for the custodier of the colours implies. Be assured, Sir, that the selection shall be fully justified, and their careful preservation by the Corporation will show their correct appreciation of your compliment.

Sincerely hoping that the encouraging progress of the borough to which you have kindly adverted may continue, I do believe that if a future emergency rendered the embodiment of the Volunteers again necessary, the present and rising generation will not disgrace its predecessors. I thank you most heartily for the honour you have this day conferred on the Corporation.

Mr. Ald. Smith moved:—"That Mr. Ellison's address and Mr. Mayor's reply be entered on the minutes of the Council, and that this Council highly esteems the honour conferred on the Mayor and Corporation by the presentation, and sincerely and frankly joins in the sentiments uttered by Mr. Mayor on behalf of the Corporation."

Mr. Hodgson second the motion, and it was carried by acclamation.

The Mayor then, in the name of the Council, thanked the ladies and gentlemen who had honoured the occasion with their presence; and with three cheers for Mr. Ellison, the proceedings closed.

Mr. Ellison, in leaving the room, met Mr. Robert Lister and other old companions in arms, with whom he cordially shook hands.

Gateshead Dispensary.—On August 8, a meeting was held of the Building Committee, as enlarged at the late general meeting, (Mr. Ald. Robson in the chair). A letter having been read from Mr. J. W. Swinburne, acceding to the proposal of the governors, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. William Cook, seconded by Mr. John Vickers, that the residence of that gentleman be purchased, with possession in February next; and that, in the meantime, measures be taken for the collection of the subscriptions not yet paid, and for the extension of the building fund to the needful proportions. It was arranged that a second meeting should be held on Monday next, to prepare for a canvass.

Mrs. Douglas, widow of the late postmaster of Gateshead, in whose behalf so generous an effort was made by gentlemen of all parties, has, in consequence, received the appointment of postmistress, there being ample assurance that the duties of the office would be efficiently discharged.

GATESHEAD POOR LAW UNION.

Board Room, Tuesday, August 8.—Present:—Mr. Alderman Robson, V.C., (in the chair,) H. G. Liddell, Esq., M.P., G. H. Ramsay, Esq., J.P., George Hawks, Esq., J.P., and Messrs. Cook, Makepeace, Anderson, Smith, Hodgson, Clark (William), Brinton, and Greene.

The Clerk read:—1. A letter from Mr. Robert Clark, who, being unable to attend, again deferred his motion respecting a lunatic ward.—2. A letter from the Poor Law Board, enclosing a letter from the Treasurer, Mr. Walker, reporting that, on a day named, the balance in hand was but £63 8s. 9d.—3. A letter from Mr. Counsellor's solicitors, enclosing a bill of particulars, as requested.—4. A letter from Mr. John Usher, applying for an increase of salary as collector of rates and assistant overseer. Since his appointment, he said, the Small Tenements Rating Act had come into operation, and increased his duties. In the quarter ending September, 1850, there were but 1554 entries in the rate-book. In the quarter ending June, 1851, the number was 2344; and in the present quarter, 3523; while, during the same period, the rateable value of the property in Gateshead had increased from £40,000 to £55,000. He hoped, therefore, that the Guardians would recommend to the Poor Law Board an increase of salary.—5. A letter from Mr. Counsellor as follows:—

Dempsterville, Felling, August 8, 1854.

Dear Sir,—I am very sorry to inform you that I was called at 10 P.M. last night to a case of cholera in the Barracks at Felling, and also, at the same time, to a case of choleraic diarrhœa in the Railway-row, (two of the places in which the disease last year was so terrific); and I have to beg of you to lay this before the Board, in order that

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GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.—The Committee met on Tuesday, Aug. 1, (John Potts, Esq., in the chair,) when, the usual business having been transacted, it was resolved that the Secretary be requested to convene a meeting of the Dispensary and Building Committees for Tuesday next, to consider the steps proper to be taken to complete the Building Fund.

THE GATESHEAD TOWN-COUNCIL.

MAYOR.
†Haggie, David

ALDERMEN.
†Hawks, George
†Lister, John
†Pearson, C. J.
†Robson, Joseph
†Smith, James

COUNCILLORS
†Allhusen, Chris.
†Brinton, George
Cook, William
†Crawshay, E.
Garbutt, C.
Gray, Alex. Geo.
Haggie, Peter
†Hewitt, James
†Hodgson, R. W.
Hunter, George
†Hymers, J. A.
†Ionn, F. P.
Patterson, G.
†Prockter, J. B.
Skelton, John
Vickers, John
†Wilson, James
†Woolston, John

☞ Those marked (†) were present.

THE GATESHEAD VOLUNTEERS.

TOWNHALL, THURSDAY, AUGUST 10. — A special meeting was held this day, at noon, "on occasion of the presentation of the regimental colours of the old Gateshead Volunteers, by Cuthbert Ellison, Esq., to the Mayor and Corporation of Gateshead." The Borough Magistrates were present, and several other gentlemen, including Joseph Hawks, Esq., J.P., Newcastle; also a few ladies. The veteran relics of the regiment, occupying very small compass, had likewise assembled. Superintendent Schorey brought in the colours—one of them bearing the arms of Mr. Ellison, with the motto—"*Monstrat amor verus patriæ.*" Mr. Ellison then entered the council-chamber leaning on the arm of the Mayor (David Haggie, Esq.)

The TOWN CLERK read the notice convening the meeting, and also a letter from the Rector (Dr. Davies), written from Tunbridge Wells, and expressing his regret that he could not be present at the ceremony.

Mr. ELLISON rose, and, addressing the Mayor, said, it was his first duty to thank His Worship for his kindness and courtesy in convening the present meeting, and his next, gratefully to acknowledge the compliment paid to him by the presence of so goodly a company of ladies and gentlemen on this very interesting occasion. It had long been his desire to place in the hands of the municipal body of Gateshead the colours of the gallant Gateshead Volunteers; but his visits to the borough were, unfortunately, few and far between, and, on former occasions, other engagements had interfered to prevent him from carrying out his intention. He had now, however, sought and found an opportunity of fulfilling his wish; the colours were before them; and those colours, which had been in his hands for half a century,* he now formally presented to the Mayor and Council, to be held in trust for the Corporation of Gateshead. (Applause.) He could assure the company he did not part from them without mingled feelings of pride, of pleasure, and of pain. Of pride, because he could never forget that ere his majority was completed he was selected by this place to command a corps of Volunteers raised in an hour of imminent peril for the defence of a country and a constitution valued by the inhabitants for its sacred liberties and respected for its just and mild laws. Long might they survive! for they contributed as much to the moral strength of the land, as its hardy population to its military power! (Applause.) And if he looked back with pride and pleasure to his connection with the Gateshead Volunteers, they must all know why those feelings were also mingled with pain. Of the many who once rallied round the colours from which he was now parting, few now remained. He believed that, with the exception of himself and his friend near him (Mr. Barras), none of the commissioned officers survived. All but themselves were gone. It was impossible that he could say how many of the rank and file, or of the inferior grades of officers, yet existed; but the total number, he well remembered, was 504; and he very much doubted if they could now turn out a sergeant's guard. If, again, he called to mind the number of distinguished men who witnessed the presentation of the colours to the regiment, he could not remember one of the whole company that was now in life, save their respected friend and venerable neighbour, Lord Ravensworth. Turning from these painful reflections, let them now dwell for a while on sources of gratification. What a wonderful change had come over them as a community since those colours were first placed in his hands! Would anybody then have believed it possible? What effect would it have had on gentlemen then living, if it had been predicted? What would Dr. Headlam have said—or Mr. Hawks, grandfather of the present Alderman Hawks—or Mr. Barras—or Mr. Harvey! If, for example, they had been told that within the next forty or fifty years, Newcastle and Gateshead would be connected by a High Level Bridge such as now existed within a few yards of them—that this borough would have a Mayor and Corporation—that the burgesses would return their own Member to Parliament—that within the space of eight hours they could transport themselves from the banks of the Tyne to the banks of the Thames—nay, more! that if the Mayor of Gateshead wished to put a question to the Lord Mayor of London, he could have an answer in ten minutes!—if such things had been predicted, half a century ago, what would have been the comment to be seen on the grave countenances of the gentlemen addressed! He would now conclude. He was not accustomed to make public addresses, and, moreover, was labouring under indisposition, which he had feared, at one time, would prevent him from the pleasure of

* The Gateshead Volunteers, commanded by Cuthbert Ellison, of Hebburn, Esq., received their colours on Wednesday, November 16, 1803. About half-past twelve o'clock, they arrived on the ground, (the Long Field, on the east side of the borough,) which was previously kept by the Newcastle Volunteers, and formed into line opposite to a stand which had been erected for the accommodation of the ladies. As soon as Mrs. Ellison, of Park House, mother of the Colonel, who presented the colours, had taken her station, supported on the right by the Right Honourable the Earl of Strathmore, and on the left by John Carr, Esq., she was received with a general salute. The ceremony then commenced by the regiment going through the manual exercise; after which three sides of a square were formed by the corps, the stand in front forming the fourth. Mrs. Ellison then stepped forward, and, after making some appropriate remarks, delivered the colours into the hands of Colonel Ellison, who replied in a strain of manly eloquence. He afterwards addressed the corps, and delivered the standards in charge of the ensigns. After going through various manœuvres, the whole was concluded with a general salute. The colours were then taken to Mr. Bertram's, the Goat inn, Gateshead, where the officers dined in company with the officers of the Newcastle Volunteers; also, Lord Strathmore, John Carr, Esq., Brooke Richmond, Esq., Rev. Dr. Prosser, the Stewards of the Borough, &c., &c. The officers presented five guineas to the privates of each company to drink success to His Majesty's arms; and they dined at the several public houses in Gateshead.—*Local Papers.*

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But another serious cause for apprehension existed in this diocese. The Act of 1851 had been productive of no enfranchisements by the Bishop, and of but very few by the Dean and Chapter; and it was suspected that, in the one case, there was an actual unwillingness to carry out the act at all, and, on the other, that the terms demanded for enfranchisement were based upon some erroneous principle of valuation.

The leaseholders, consequently, considered that their only security consisted, in the first place, in preserving the permissive power to enfranchise which the Act of 1851 afforded, and, in the second, in endeavouring so to amend that Act that difficulties with respect to valuations might be overcome, when the parties could not themselves agree, by an adoption of the arbitration principle — and that the "due regard" for the long-continued enjoyment of lease-renewal should be more plainly exemplified and more fully secured. It also appeared most necessary that the system of calculating the value of life-leases should be rendered more correct and equitable than it had been previously been.

With a view to exemplify the working of the Act of 1851 in this diocese, the honourable member for South Shields had obtained an address from the House of Commons to the Queen to order a return of the number of applications for enfranchisement (and of their results) which had been made to the Bishop and Dean and Chapter of Durham.

Such was the state of the question when the Church leaseholders of this district resolved to form themselves into an association for the protection of their rights in reference to the security of their tenure or the enfranchisement of their property.

To Mr. William Wylam and one or two of his neighbours belongs the credit of having initiated the formation of this association.

At their suggestion a meeting of leaseholders was convened, and was held in the Chamber of Commerce in Newcastle on the 17th of May last; and on the 23d of the same month, another meeting was held in this building—on which occasion the Mayor was kind enough to preside, and with respect to which it has been remarked, and justly so, that there "seldom or ever had been seen in this borough a meeting more weighty and influential, whether as regarded the position and character of the gentlemen of whom it was composed, or the extent and gravity of the interests which it represented."

The association, at this meeting, was formally completed — officers were appointed, and authority was given for assessments to meet the expenses which would necessarily be incurred, and to no inconsiderable amount.

Mr. Forster and the Secretary were requested to proceed to London, and to use their best exertions to obtain, in the act for the continuance of the measure of 1851, as great a protection as possible for the interests of the lessees.

In conformity with this desire of the Association, its representatives lost no time in making the necessary arrangements. They went to London in the course of a few days, and immediately conferred with many of the members representing this and neighbouring counties and boroughs, with a view to a due carrying out of the objects of the association.

It would be almost invidious to mention names—because the friends of the lessees were as numerous as they were staunch — legislators of the most opposite political opinions agreeing in this—that it would be robbery of the very worst description to treat the lessees otherwise than as persons who had acquired an equitable, if not legal, right to a renewal of their leases upon fair and reasonable terms.

It was thought best that the Prime Minister should be first seen upon the subject—inasmuch as time pressed, the bill having been already before a select committee of the House of Lords, which had altered it so that it was only to continue for one year, and to contain no new matter whatever.

Mr. Hutt was kind enough to ask for an interview with Lord Aberdeen, which that nobleman readily granted; and a very numerous body of members of parliament and of deputations from different portions of this diocese waited in consequence upon his lordship. On this occasion Mr. John Gregson on behalf of the Durham leaseholders, Mr. Swinburne on behalf of South Shields, and Mr. Allhusen on behalf of Gateshead and the neighbourhood, addressed his lordship; and Mr. John Abel Smith and other friends added several very valuable observations. The effect on Lord Aberdeen was evidently considerable; for he seemed to regret that he had not been earlier made acquainted with the business, and stated that all he could then do was to stop the further progress of the bill until the matter could be more fully considered: — and his lordship accordingly *did* stop it.

It should be mentioned that an accidental interview had been previously had with Lord Harrowby, who was the Chairman of the Episcopal and Capitular Revenue Commissioners in 1849–50, and who seemed thoroughly to understand the question and deeply to sympathize with the leaseholders; but his lordship seemed to think that nothing further than a bare continuance for a year would be agreed to by the House of Lords.

In order, however, to bring the matter directly before the notice of the Upper House, a petition was prepared immediately after the interview with Lord Harrowby, and was signed by Mr. Forster, Mr. Salmon, Mr. Allhusen, and the Secretary, praying that a clause for arbitration, similar to those contained in the Irish Church Temporalities Act, and in the Copyhold Enfranchisement Act, might be inserted in the bill then before their lordships. It was necessary that this petition should be presented immediately; and it is due to the Earl Vane to mention, that on requesting his lordship to go down to the house to present the petition forthwith, he not only expressed his great desire to assist the leaseholders generally, but his readiness to act upon the instant; which he did—taking the oaths at the time of presenting the petition, it being his first appearance in the House of Lords.

In the evening of the same day on which the interview took place with Lord Aberdeen, the deputations, through the introduction of Mr. Hutt and Mr. Ingham, had interviews with Lord John Russell and Lord Granville; which latter peer, then President of the Council, had charge of the bill. Both these noble lords listened attentively to the statements which were made; and Lord Granville, during the interview, introduced Mr. John Lefevre (one of the Estates Commissioners); but beyond an indication from Lord John that nothing of a compulsory character could be introduced into a permissive bill, little was elicited.

Numerous were the meetings which were held, in Mr. Ingham's chambers and elsewhere, by the deputations and legislative friends of the lessees; and it is certainly most gratifying to be able to say, that not only our local members, but gentlemen wholly unconnected with this district, or by private interests with the question, showed the greatest alacrity in assisting the representatives of the lessees.

It was finally arranged, however, that any additions or amendments to the bill should be proposed after it came down to the Commons—and that, if passed there, the assent of the Lords should be then requested. This, of course, rendered a longer stay in London at that time unnecessary, and your deputation returned to the North

In the mean time, the Secretary deemed it desirable that a detailed "Statement of Facts," for the information of members of both houses of parliament, should be authoritatively published. Such a statement, accordingly, he prepared; and authority was obtained for appending to it the names of the Chief Magistrates and Town Clerks of Gateshead, South Shields, Durham, Sunderland, Newcastle, Morpeth, and Tynemouth, the Bailiff of Darlington, the President of the Chamber of the Commerce, and other gentlemen of influence in the district. Copies of this document are now on the table for the use of the members of the association.

It was considered, and the result has proved the anticipation to be correct, that a knowledge of the case was only wanted to enlist legislative friends in defence of the leaseholders, but it was deemed most desirable that the informa- should not be distributed until the eve of discussion; because members of parliament receive such a multitude of printed papers every day, that many run a risk of being laid aside

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and being never afterwards seen. It was therefore determined that, as soon as an interview had been arranged by Mr. Hutt between the legislative friends of the lessees and Lord John Russell, the "Statement of Facts" should be copiously distributed among members of the House of Commons—Mr. Cayley (one of the members for North Yorkshire, and one whose zeal in the cause cannot be too highly eulogized,) obligingly furnishing the Secretary and Mr. Forster with the names of many hundreds of members to whom the document might be advantageously transmitted.

Lord John fixed the 12th of July to receive the deputation. The "statements" were forwarded so as to be in the hands of members on the 11th. Circulars were also sent, at the same time, indicating the place and hour of the interview, and subjoining a clause which it was proposed to submit to his lordship for insertion in the bill, and soliciting the attendance of members at Chesham-place on the occasion.

A second circular was also sent, so as to be on the breakfast-tables of the members on the morning of the deputation, respectfully reminding them thereof, and urgently requesting the favour of their forming part of it.

Pressing letters were also written to those members of parliament on whose attention the deputation of the association considered the leaseholders of the district to have some claim; and it is gratifying to say, that the greatest readiness of coöperation was evinced by all.

The copyholders and leaseholders of the diocese of Worcester also rendered good service by issuing a circular simultaneously with ours, and by coöperating in every possible way with the Shields and Gateshead deputations in furtherance of their common object.

The interview took place and Lord John Russell, there is some reason to believe, was much surprised, as were many other members of parliament, by the number as well as influence of the parties assembled on the occasion. Instead of seeing but a mere fraction of the house, as might have been expected at so late a period of the session, and on a non-political and comparatively non-exciting subject, he found that the deputation consisted of fifty members; that it comprised both sides of the house and all shades of opinion; that, in short, it was a demonstration almost without a parallel under the peculiar circumstances of the case.

The interview was deemed satisfactory by the deputation. Lord John Russell admitted candidly that the question was a most important one, and that it was really time that it was settled—and that, although the present bill would not admit of compulsory clauses, yet any further facilities that could be pointed out would be worthy of consideration, and should have it.

At subsequent meetings with our local members, and at subsequent interviews between some of them and Lord John Russell, it was arranged that a remodelled clause on the permissive principle should be submitted to the Government, and that the amendments to be made should be proposed by Mr. Ingham in committee on the bill. The clause, as originally framed, had appointed the "Inclosure Commissioners" as the umpire or third arbitrator, under the impression that to appoint some independent, impartial public board, would be acceptable to the Government; but the President of the Council thought it better to leave the third arbitrator to be appointed by the other two—a principle to which, of course, your deputation gladly assented—having, indeed, preferred it from the first.

Mr. Evelyn Denison and Mr. Mullings, as well as Mr. Cayley and the active members for this immediate locality, took great pains in endeavouring to frame such a clause as would protect the interests of the lessees without losing the support of the Government; and in the committee of the whole house on the bill, the Government assented to the propositions of Mr. Ingham; which were, first, to prolong the bill's existence to *two* years, and, second, that arbitration should be resorted to, where the parties could not agree, in order to fix the values. The only change Lord John Russell stipulated for was, that the Estates Commissioners, and not the ecclesiastical corporations, should appoint the lessor's arbitrator. The change appeared to your deputation as an improvement, and was therefore at once agreed to.

Mr. Denison's proposal, however, to extend the arbitration principle to dealings with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, was not agreed to; neither were Mr. Cayley's, for defining the basis of computation of that "due regard" which was to be paid to the long established custom of renewal, and for calculating the life-interests in leases upon modern and improved instead of antiquated and exploded tables.

Mr. Goulburn, one of the Church Estates Commissioners, opposed all the clauses as strenuously as possible—suggesting every objection which ingenuity could devise, and urging the house strongly to dissent from any deviation from the Act of 1851; but he was signally unsuccessful, being compelled at last to acknowledge that the friends of the lessees were so numerous in the house that any attempt to prevent their success was hopeless.

Thus the bill passed through committee—the attendance thereon being large, circulars having been forwarded as before on the very morning of the sitting, and other solicitations made, with a view to secure the presence of the leaseholders' friends.

The success of the leaseholders, however, did not end here. Their friends, in the meantime, had not been idle. Mr. Cayley, Mr. Denison, Mr. Ingham, Mr. Hutt, and others, had had interviews with the Solicitor-General and the President of the Council, and had succeeded in obtaining the assistance of the former in so constructing the clauses as to accomplish, with the aid of the Government, and in defiance of Mr. Goulburn, the objects which both Mr. Denison and Mr. Cayley had in view.

The clauses were both passed:—the one extending to the Ecclesiatical Commissioners the arbitration principle which had been confined to the Estates Commissioners — the other providing that the "due regard" for the lessees' interest should be calculated according to the Report of the Ecclesiastical Revenues Commissioners of 1850, or, where that might not be applicable, then according to the Report of the Lords' Committee of 1851—and that life-interests should be computed upon modern and correct tables.

The bill, thus successfully amended, enlarged, and improved, was now sent back to the Lords for the assent of that house:—and here, again, the opposition of the Estates Commissioners was exerted, with the assistance of some members of the Episcopal Bench. The attempt, however, failed, and the bill was passed without any material alteration; except that the Commissioners, instead of being bound to adopt the Report of 1850 in preference to that of 1851, when the former could be made applicable, were to be allowed the option of adopting either the one or the other.

The majority (for the friends of the Commissioners divided the house) was 17 to 11; and there can be little doubt that in this instance, as well as in the Commons, a liberal distribution among the legislators of the "facts" of the case rendered essential service.

The Commons consented to the Lords' amendments on Wednesday; and the royal assent was given to the bill on Friday last.

The advantages conferred upon the leaseholders by the present measure may be summed up as follows:—

1. The permission to agree with the lessor for enfranchisement is continued for two years longer.

2. The difficulty of agreeing upon terms for enfranchisement is remediable by leaving the value of the respective interests of the lessee and lessor (exclusive of the value of the right of renewal) to be ascertained by arbitration.

3. The "due regard" of the lessees' long accustomed privilege of lease-renewal is to be considered in all final settlements for enfranchisement—not only by the Estates Commissioners, but by the Bishops and Deans and Chapters, who, by the Act of 1851, were *not bound* to pay such "due regard" in their arrangements with their lessees.

4. The "due regard" above referred to is to be estimated either according to the Report of the Revenue Commissioners of 1850 or that of the House of Lords Committee of 1851:—the former providing that the leases should be perpetually renewed, as hitherto, but that new valuations should be only made once in 21 years, and that one-half only of the present fine should be payable every seven years, and the other half be spread over the whole period

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of the lease in the shape of a rent-charge: — the latter recommending that the property should be enfranchised by a money-payment in full, and that the lessee should be allowed, in the adjustment of the amount to be paid, the benefit of one renewal of his lease at the accustomed fine. Thus, if a lease at the time of enfranchisement had 17½ years to run, it was to be estimated in the calculation as being a lease having 24½ years to run—the fine, of course, for the allowed renewal, being paid by the lessee.

5. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners, in whom is already vested much Church property, and in whom much more will very soon be vested, are also (virtually) instructed to act upon the arbitration principle.

6. The life-leaseholders of the Church, in their enfranchisements, are not only to be allowed the benefit of that due regard for their long-accustomed expectation of renewal, but are to have the calculations based upon the most modern and approved statistics of life, instead of upon the Northampton tables, which are notoriously prejudicial to the interests of the lessees.

Such are the principal advantages acquired by the Act. So successful a result, surely, is cause for much mutual congratulation; and the leaseholders of this diocese, it is conceived, would be wanting in gratitude, if they did not warmly express their thanks to those friends in the legislature who have so earnestly, zealously, and successfully assisted them.

At the same time, they would be regardless of their own interests if they allowed any time to be lost in taking the necessary steps for availing themselves of the advantages which the act affords.

That it is a permissive act, is very true. True it is, that no leaseholder can compel either Bishop or Chapter to listen to his application, or to submit the valuation of his estate to the decision of arbitrators. But the result of Mr. Ingham's motion for a return from the Bishop and Chapter of Durham of the operation of the Act of 1851, so far as they had been concerned, shows that the recent agitation of the question, both within parliament and without, has had its due effect. Time was, and that not long ago, when applications to the Bishop of Durham's Auditor respecting enfranchisements were utterly unattended to — letters remained unanswered—and the progress of charity, even, was seriously arrested in this borough, by a want of decision as to the enfranchisement of an episcopal building site. Now, however, the Bishop has appointed a gentleman of the highest respectability and ability in the diocese, to facilitate enfranchisements; and the Dean and Chapter have been anxious to show, and doubtless they will continue anxious to show, that they are not, by any means, averse to an honest carrying out of the enfranchisement act.

The present measure, moreover, is one of probation. It is unquestionable that many persons, high in authority in the State, only sanction the present act in the hope that a ready compliance with its intentions may avert the enactment of compulsory enfranchisement—being quite prepared, on evidence being exhibited of any wilful disregard of the so unanimously expressed wishes of the legislature, to bring forward a compulsory measure, and to support it to the uttermost.

The Church, therefore, has more to fear than the lessees from any contemptuous disregard which may be exhibited by ecclesiastical bodies of the intention and object of the permissive act — the enfranchisement of Church property being now an admitted necessity, for the sake, not only of both parties to the lease, but of the general commercial and agricultural interests of the country, which have been long and seriously damnified by the improvement-preventing system under which Church property has been managed.

The SECRETARY resumed his seat amidst much applause; and, on the motion of Mr. WILLIAM GRAY, of Wallsend, the report was read and adopted — the CHAIRMAN observing that it was a very satisfactory document.

Mr. GEORGE HAWKS said, he held in his hand a motion which, he was quite sure, would be passed by acclamation. To their very able Secretary, and also to his worthy associate, Mr. J. S. Forster, they must all feel highly indebted. They might justly congratulate themselves on having sent up to London, in furtherance of the present movement, a man of so much energy and ability as Mr. Brockett. It might be gathered from the report, just read, how much perseverance and talent it required to carry out the wishes of the association; and he would add, from personal observation while in London, that whenever he had occasion to call on his friend Mr. Brockett, he found him up to the ears in pen and ink. (Laughter.) The skill and labour required for the work, it was impossible to conceive by those who were not on the spot; and those who were, one and all, would say that the merit and the credit rested mainly with the Secretary. From morning to night he was in a continually worry (laughter), and he really sometimes felt sorry for him, his labours were so stupendous. (The Chairman: Well! I'm glad to see he does not look much the worse for them.—Laughter.) From the beginning, members of the legislature seemed to take the same view of the question as this association; and there seemed little room for fear, it only they were all made properly aware of the facts. Mr. Brockett undertook that this should be done, and prepared a masterly statement of the case of the leaseholders — one of the ablest papers of the kind that was ever penned, and, in his (Mr. Hawks's) opinion, a principal instrument of their success. No other man, within the sphere of his acquaintance, could have accomplished what their Secretary had done; and he had therefore great pleasure in moving — "That the very best thanks of this meeting be given to the Secretary, Mr. Brockett, for his invaluable services and assistance in promoting the passing of the Capitular and Episcopal Estates Management Bill in its present form, by which so many important facilities for enfranchisement have been secured; and, also, that the best thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. J. S. Forster, for his valuable assistance to the Secretary." (Applause.)

The motion having been passed by acclamation, the SECRETARY returned thanks.

Mr. J. S. FORSTER said, he could sincerely echo every syllable which had been uttered by Mr. Hawks as to Mr. Brockett. He thanked the association for the kind notice which had been bestowed on his own services; but these were as nothing, compared with what Mr. Brockett had rendered. Mr. Hawks had alluded to the "Statement of Facts," which had so materially contributed to the success of the movement; and he (Mr. Forster) might add, that Mr. Ingham told him Mr. Evelyn Denison had pronounced it to be one of the ablest papers that had ever come under his observation. He was quite certain that every member of the deputation would say, with himself, that had it not been for Mr. Brockett the leaseholders would have got nothing more than a renewal of the Act of 1851. (Applause.)

Mr. CHARLES RAYNE believed there were not two opinions as to the value of Mr. Brockett's services. It was, no doubt, to his zeal, ability, and untiring assiduity, that they were indebted for the Act of 1854. He quite agreed with Mr. Forster, that, but for the Secretary, they would have been left in no better position than before; and he, therefore, had cordially voted for the resolution just passed. But something more than words was wanted; and, hitherto, the sinews of war had not been furnished in even sufficient

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amount to meet the immediate exigencies of the movement. He would therefore move — "That in order to meet the expenses which have been, and may be, incurred in connection with the association, the leaseholders be requested to pay their assessment of threepence in the pound as soon as possible." (Carried unanimously.)

Mr. J. S. FORSTER, with a grateful allusion to the services of Mr. Gregson, of Shotton Hall, and Mr. Tiplady, of Durham, moved—"That the leaseholders of the districts of Durham and Sunderland be also requested to contribute their quota of the assessment, the efforts of the association having been made in their service, as well as that of other districts." (Carried.)

Mr. R. C. FORSTER moved the next resolution :— "That the thanks of the association be and are hereby voted to Mr. Hutt, the member for this borough, for the valuable assistance he rendered to the deputation. (Applause.) That the thanks of the association be also given to the other members of the legislature, Lords and Commons, who took an active part in promoting the success of the bill." (Carried by acclamation.)

Mr. HAWKS said, no man could have taken more pains in this business than Mr. Hutt. They were under great obligations, also, to Mr. Ingham. He spoke of those two gentlemen more particularly, because their services fell more immediately under his own observation.

Mr. J. S. FORSTER said, after what he had seen of Mr. Hutt's conduct, he could not but feel a strong sense of gratitude towards him. He had evidently the power of commanding the attention of the principal members of Her Majesty's Government, and the disposition to exercise it for the benefit of the leaseholders and the public. It was Mr. Hutt who made the arrangements for the deputation to Lord John Russell, which, he was persuaded, formed the foundation of their success. He might also speak of Mr. Ingham, who was both able and willing to assist them; but that gentleman would doubtless receive his reward in the grateful expressions of his own constituents, and would not begrudge the leaseholders of Gateshead the pride and pleasure of believing that their own member had been most influential in securing their success. (Applause.)

Mr. HAWKS said, there might be many leaseholders who would be glad of some assistance in procuring the enfranchisement of their leaseholds : — would the Secretary have any objection to lend them his aid ?

Mr. BROCKETT replied, that he should be very happy to render the leaseholders any assistance in his power. (Applause.)

The TOWN CLERK (Mr. KENMIR) moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and the meeting was adjourned to 12 o'clock on Monday, the 11th of September.

REPORT OF THE CHOLERA COMMISSIONERS ON GATESHEAD.

WE, by your Majesty's letters patent of the 31st December, 1853, appointed "to be the Commissioners for inquiring into the causes which have led to, or have aggravated, the late outbreak of cholera in the towns of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Gateshead, and Tynemouth," herewith humbly submit to your Majesty :—(Here the Commissioners report their arrival in Newcastle on the 5th of January, 1854; the holding of their inquiry there; their visit to Gateshead, where they took evidence on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of March; the result of the inquiry in Newcastle (occupying 474 pages of evidence and nearly 30 of report); and then 100 pages of evidence and 9 or 10 of report as to Gateshead, and about half-a-dozen pages of Tynemouth report and evidence. We give the Gateshead report) :—

That we have received most valuable assistance from Mr. Kell, the Town Clerk and Clerk to the Local Board of Health there, and from Mr. Hall, the Town Surveyor and Surveyor to the Local Board, from Mr. Wilson, Union Medical Officer, from Mr. Clephan, and from others of the authorities and inhabitants of Gateshead, and have found them anxious in every way to promote and facilitate the inquiry entrusted to us; and that we would particularly draw attention to the cholera map prepared by them, a lithograph whereof is appended hereto, and an inspection whereof, as elucidated by the evidence annexed, can hardly fail to throw a striking light upon the subject of that inquiry.

That the town of Gateshead, separated from that of Newcastle by the river Tyne only, is mainly situated on a steep slope ascending from that river, in some places with great abruptness, and at the southern extremity of the borough reaching a height of 500 feet; that the great bulk of the town lies at a very considerable elevation, the lowest thoroughfares, those immediately along the verge of the river, being from 4 to 5 feet above spring tide high water, and the whole affording remarkable facilities for sewerage, ventilation, &c.; that, except in respect of the clayey nature of the surface-soil, we know of nothing at all unfavourable in its natural position or circumstances, and see no reason whatever why Gateshead also should not be a very healthy town; and that as, in a sanitary point of view, at least, the two towns virtually constitute but one, and as much of the evidence taken in respect of the one would appear to be, in the main, equally applicable to the other, we propose to shorten our Report relative to Gateshead by occasionally referring back to what has already been reported in respect of Newcastle.

That the epidemics, which of late years have visited the town of Gateshead, have generally and substantially been coincident, in point of time, nature, severity, &c., with those which have prevailed in Newcastle.

That the mortality among every thousand inhabitants of the borough of Gateshead — excluding that small part of the chapelry of Heworth which, at the time of the Reform Act, 1832, was added to the parish and previous municipal borough to make up the present Parliamentary borough—has, according to the returns furnished to us by the Registrar General, been as follows :—

1839 28	1844 24	1849 35
1840 30	1845 23	1850 25
1841 29	1846 39	1851 30
1842 27	1847 30	1852 30
1843 30	1848 25	1853 47

and that the mortality among every 1,000 inhabitonts, on the average of those 15 years, has been 30·1 per annum.

That, bearing in mind the great sanitary capabilities of Gateshead, we cannot doubt that this actual annual death-rate is at least double the natural or necessary death-rate of the place; that, on the assumptions previously made with regard to Newcastle, and supposing the population of Gateshead during that period to have averaged 20,000, it would follow that,

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on the average of those 15 years, some 280, 300, or even 320 lives have annually been sacrificed in Gateshead, owing to the artificial aggravation of natural diseases; and that, considering the number of not fatal cases which must have occurred for each of these fatal cases of artificially aggravated disease, even the above figures will convey but a faint idea of the afflictions entailed upon the inhabitants by the absence of proper sanitary arrangements: in contemplating which, however, it is but fair to remember that Gateshead did not become a Parliamentary borough till the year 1832, that it had no governing municipal body till 1836, that the Local Board of Health there were not constituted nor empowered till 1851, and that they have had no funds beyond what they have been enabled to obtain from special rates.

That, during the late outbreak of cholera there, 433 persons perished in a few weeks out of a population of 26,000 or thereabouts, (24,805 at the census of 1851, excluding 763 in the portion of Heworth chapelry), being a mortality of about one in sixty during that short period; that the mortality in nine considerable street or groups of streets—which, together, comprise the greatest part of Gateshead—appears, from a tabular statement prepared by Mr. Surveyor Hall, to have been still higher, and to have varied from one in 48·5 to as high as one in 19·5; as many as seven persons out of 120 being stated to have died in one block of buildings, three out of thirty to have died in one house, and even as many as three deaths to have taken place in the cellars of another single house.

That the late outbreak of cholera in Gateshead, though unquestionably more extensive, is not alleged to have been more fatal or more malignant than the previous outbreaks of the same disease there, nor to have differed much from them or from other epidemics, either in respect to the classes of people it attacked, or of the districts in which it first broke out, or in which, especially, it localized itself, or generally in respect of the laws which it appears to have followed; that, on the contrary, it is admitted to have prevailed most virulently just where any person, competently acquainted with the sanitary state of the town, would have predicted; that the epidemic influence, to which the whole population throughout the town appears to have been exposed, was comparatively innocuous in the better parts; that, in some of the best parts, there was no mortality at all; and that the mortality was almost exclusively confined to the poorest classes and to the worst districts; that of the 433 persons who perished only 29 were ratepayers or members of the families of ratepayers, and that of these families some were living in notoriously unhealthy localities; and that, whilst the mortality among the population at large was about one in 60, that among the ratepayers and their families was only one in 300; that no instance appears to have occurred of two or three deaths taking place in any block of houses not presenting obvious sanitary defects; that the virulence of the disease was certainly aggravated by the bad sanitary condition of the respective localities; and that in several instances, the mortality in various localities may be regarded as having been pretty fairly apportioned to the sanitary defects of each.

That many of the causes which, beyond all doubt, have aggravated the virulence of previous epidemics there generally, and of the late outbreak in particular, are as obvious upon inspection, and almost as notorious, in Gateshead as in Newcastle; that the statements previously cited from the annual reports of the Medical Charitable Institutions, &c., of Newcastle, as to the aggravative causes of the various epidemics there, are admitted to be equally true in respect of the aggravative causes of the corresponding epidemics in Gateshead, and are further borne out by similar statements in the annual reports of the Gateshead Dispensary; and that, in spite of the improvements recently made in Gateshead, but chiefly affecting the better and less unwholesome districts, the same causes, which at those previous periods were reported as exercising unfavourable influences in respect of the then prevalent epidemics, were also, to a very great extent, in operation there last autumn, and exercised similar unfavourable influences in respect of the late outbreak.

That the same radically bad system of house construction which we have already described as prevailing in considerable districts of Newcastle, prevails also, and probably to a larger extent comparatively, in Gateshead; that a large proportion of the houses occupied by the poorer classes in Gateshead (who there apparently constitute four-fifths of the entire population) are built back to back with one another, or, where not actually back to back, with back yards between them so small as to serve only to receive accumulations of filth, and to be quite inadequate for wholesome ventilation; that the courts and entries, or spaces between the fronts of these back-to-back rows of houses, are habitually so narrow as to render it almost impossible for either sun or wind to get at them, and to render them habitually dark, as well as damp and unwholesome; that one or other end of these narrow alleys is not unfrequently closed or built up, so as to constitute it a complete *cul-de-sac*; whilst, in one or more cases, smaller lateral *cul-de-sacs* are found leading out of a larger one; the other ends of these miserable places being also sometimes built over, so as to leave nothing but a single covered way for ingress or egress; that in other cases the houses are built in the abrupt riverward slope or bank, on which the lower part of the town is situated, so as to have one or more of the walls, for one or more stories in height, in close proximity with the earth of the acclivity above—a circumstance which, owing to the clayey nature of the surface soil, and to the very great deficiency of drainage throughout the borough, inevitably leads to a dampness in the walls of such dwellings, not unfrequently palpable to the eye—while in some instances both these classes of evils are combined, the ends of back-to-back rows of houses being built into, and the ends of the narrow courts and entries between them being made to abut upon, these undrained banks; and that in this way, throughout considerable districts chiefly occupied by the poorer classes, ventilation is rendered almost impossible; that in addition to all this, some of the houses are old and dilapidated, even as to the substance of their walls; that the habitual deficiency of paving and scavenging in the vicinity of such places tends greatly to increase the evils of such a state of things; while the vicious practices previously alluded to of misplacing privies and ashpits, and of allowing accumulations of dirt to collect in corners, &c., still further aggravate them, by saturating the walls of some of the houses with very impure water, or even with liquid filth; the interiors of such houses habitually corresponding to the exteriors, and being dark, unventilated and unwholesome—even in points beyond the control of the individual tenants—besides

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being in very many cases further prejudiced by the want of proper domestic conveniences, by overcrowding, filthy habits on the parts of the tenants, and other matters hereinafter adverted to.

That, by general consent of the witnesses before us, a large part of the dwellings of the poorer classes in Gateshead are not fit for human habitation; the Town Clerk there computing that at least one-half of the population is thus dangerously mis-lodged; that a considerable part of those dwellings are not only not fit, but incapable of being rendered fit for such a purpose; and that the impossibility of so rendering them fit for habitation is assigned as the reason why no attempts have been made even to improve them.

That the seriously, if not irremediably bad condition of the dwellings of the poorer classes is by no means exclusively confined to the oldest and lowest parts of Gateshead; and that while in those parts it may have arisen, to some extent at least, from gradual and thereforefore scarcely perceptible changes, in other and more modern parts it has resulted from less excusable causes; that, in particular, the introduction of cellar dwellings into Gateshead is a matter of comparatively recent date; that they are now found there in considerable numbers; and that, during the late outbreak, in those streets, &c., in which cellar dwellings did exist, a serious proportion of the whole mortality appears to have occurred in them.

That another striking instance of the recklessness recently exhibited in respect of house-building in Gateshead may be found in the following facts, viz.; that in some cases where the sandstone (which here comes very near the surface) had been worked out of a quarry, or the quarry had for any reason fallen into disuse, the open excavation had been used as a receptacle for street sweepings, town refuse and all the rubbish and filth that any one might please to shoot into it, until filled up to or above the level of the surrounding soil; and that thereupon houses and streets have been built on the top of the noisome mass thus accumulated, without any adequate drainage having been provided to prevent the perpetual soakage of rain and refuse water into it and the perpetual re-exhalation of noxious vapours from it; and that, during the late outbreak, the first death by cholera and a mortality of 15 out of 488 occurred in one of those streets, ten out of those fifteen deaths having taken place in the cellars, which had literally been reëxcavated out of this accumulation of refuse.

That, since the year 1851, the Local Board of Health, under the authority of the Public Health Act, have been invested with a certain amount of control over the formation of new streets and over the construction of houses newly built or reërected within the borough; that this control appears to have been diligently exercised, and that the results of it are stated to have been visible in the improved structural arrangements of the houses and streets built since that time; that, under the same Act, they have also been invested with considerable control over the occupation not only of cellar dwellings built or rebuilt after the passing of that Act, but of all cellar dwellings whatsoever; that this control has to some extent been exercised, but not, we fear, to the extent to which it might and ought to have been:—a circumstance the more to be regretted, owing to the very considerable amount of mortality which appears to have taken place in such dwellings during the recent outbreak.

That the poorer classes of Gateshead are not only exceedingly ill lodged, but also much overcrowded in their lodgings; that it is an habitual thing for an entire family to live, sleep, cook, eat, wash, &c., in a single room; the corners of single rooms thus occupied being occasionally further sub-let to other families or lodgers; that this overcrowding among them appears to be generally greatest about harvest time, in September and October, which was the period when the late outbreak chiefly prevailed; and that confident opinions have been expressed as to overcrowding and the want of proper ventilation having been a very powerful cause predisposing to cholera.

That there are stated to be about 3,423 houses in the whole borough (3,380 in the year 1851), and probably are some 5,500 families or thereabouts (5,263 in the year 1851); that of these 3,423 houses, 1,838 appear to be occupied as self-contained houses by as many families, leaving the remaining 1,585 houses to be occupied in tenements by the remaining 3,662 families, which, on the average, would give considerably more than two families to each tenemented house—the houses in Gateshead being considerably smaller on the average and containing fewer rooms than those in Newcastle:—that we have not been able to obtain the materials for computing, as in respect of Newcastle, what per centage of the population of Gateshead occupies each different class of tenements, or for framing, relative to Gateshead, such a table as has already been exhibited in respect of Newcastle; but that facts, nevertheless, are not altogether wanting to illustrate the significance of overcrowding already adverted to; that in one district, in which ninety-nine families each occupied a house to themselves, the mortality was 6 out of 501, or 1 in 83·5; that in another district, in which fifty-nine families occupied thirty houses (or nearly two families to a house) the mortality was 5 out of 282, or 1 in 56·4; that in a third district, in which 185 families occupied 84 houses (or more than two families to a house), the mortality was 21 out of 907, or 1 in 43·1; that in the northern block of New Gateshead, in which ninety-one families occupied twenty-six houses (or 3·5 families to a house), there was a mortality of 13 out of 417, or 1 in 32; while, in the immediately adjoining southern block, in which twenty families occupied nineteen houses (seventy-six rooms), there was no death at all among 130 persons; to which may be added that in Leonard's-court, in which the crowding appears to have been as great, if not greater than anywhere else, viz., seventy-eight families to fourteen houses (or 5·6 families to a house), the mortality appears also to have been about the greatest, viz., 15 out of 293, or 1 in 19·5; and although, in certain of these instances, the term "house" may correspond to very different capacities for habitation, in most instances the succession of figures above given will represent the relative degrees of overcrowding.

That in consequence of the above circumstances, and of others more particularly adverted to in respect of Newcastle, but also prevailing more or less in Gateshead, the condition of many of the dwellings of the poorer classes there appears to have been habitually filthy and unwholesome; that since the year 1851 the Local Board of Health, under the authority of the Public Health Act, have been empowered to compel the owner or occupier of any such dwelling to whitewash, cleanse or purify the same; that in March 1852 the Local Board issued and got approved a bye-law relative to this matter, but that no medical

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officer has ever been appointed whose special duty it should be to see to the enforcement of this and divers other powers and byelaws, or to issue the requisite certificates; and that the exercise of the power in question, eminently beneficial as it would have been, has been almost entirely neglected.

That, on the other hand, from the same year 1851, both under the powers of the Public Health Act and also of the Common Lodging Houses Act, the Local Board have been invested with large control over all such places; that in March 1852 the Local Board issued and got approved various byelaws relative thereto; that these byelaws appear to have been regularly and stringently enforced; and that the beneficial results of this surveillance by the Local Board is stated to have been visible, not only in general, but also in the sensibly less mortality which occurred during the late outbreak in the registered lodging-houses, as compared with other houses of similar situation and calibre.

That, with reference to the sewerage of Gateshead, it appears that at the time of the constitution of the Local Board in 1851, there was one main sewer of about sixty chains or three quarters of a mile in length, and in good condition, and about thirty-two chains or three-eighths of a mile in length of drains or sewers so imperfect as, in the opinion of the Town Surveyor, hardly to deserve the name, besides a certain amount of partially covered surface gutters, which merely took the water, &c., away from one point of the surface to re-deliver it to the surface a little lower down, and not unfrequently into the open street and into the immediate vicinity of other houses; and that the extent of house-drainage, or the number of houses drained into those sewers, was still less than might have been expected, even with this limited extent of sewerage.

That at the time of our inquiry, and although a good many water-closets have recently been introduced owing to the exertions of Mr. Surveyor Hall, there were still but 64 out of the 3,423 houses in the borough, which had waterclosets supplied by the water company; and taking into consideration the few supplied by rain or spring-water cisterns, there were not probably above 80 houses out of that whole number, or less than one fortieth part, having fæcal drainage.

That of the 235 houses, which might have been drained into the one good main sewer, only 86 actually were so; and, that, taking into consideration those drained into the disused coal workings beneath them and otherwise, there were not probably, even at the time of our inquiry, so many as 150 out of the 3,423, or less than one twentieth part of the houses in the borough, which had even proper surface drainage.

That under these circumstances, of course, the great bulk of the town, not only in the poorer, but also in the wealthier districts, was extremely, if not entirely destitute, not only of fæcal drainage, but of drainage of any kind or sort; that a certain proportion of the drainage which did exist, was, as above mentioned, exceedingly imperfect and inefficient, and often (as were also many of the surface gutters above alluded to) filthy and offensive in the highest degree; that none of the gully grates in the town appeared to have been trapped, except in one street recently drained by the Local Board; and that the results of such a state of things are too obvious to require comment.

That, under the authority of the Public Health Act, the Local Board have had ample powers in respect of sewering the public streets and highways of the borough; and that, in respect of these, some small additions and improvements had been made previously to the late outbreak; but that generally the powers had not been exercised with any energy, nor even to the extent which might reasonably have been expected; that proposals for the preparation of a proper map of the borough, with a view to a comprehensive system of sewerage, had several times been urged upon the Local Board by the Surveyor and by individual members of it; but had invariably been rejected, apparently on the score of expense; that the survey of a portion of the borough had, however, been authorized with a view to the sewering of one natural drainage area in the eastern part of the borough; but that, even since the epidemic and at the very time of our inquiry, the same injudicious (and its results extravagant and wasteful) parsimony appears to have interfered to obstruct or prevent the execution of a proper and efficient sewerage system there, and to endeavour to substitute one to all appearances much less desirable.

That the enactment of the Public Health Act, providing that it should not be lawful to erect or re-erect any house without drains, &c., appear to have been well and vigilantly enforced; but that, owing to the great deficiency of public sewers, this enforcement has not been attended with all the benefits thereby contemplated; so few of the houses recently erected or re-erected in the borough having been within the prescribed 100 feet of the sea or of any public sewer, that it has been necessary for the Local Board to sanction their being drained into cesspools, disused coal workings, and in other more or less undesirable ways; and that the further powers of that Act, enabling the Local Board to cause any and every house to be drained which is within 100 feet of the sea or of a public sewer, whether built before or after the application of that Act to the district in which it is situated, have been greatly neglected, and indeed have been exercised in but very few instances.

That, by the same authority of the Public Health Act, the Local Board have been empowered to compel the sewering of private streets, &c.; that in three or four instances this power has been put in force, and in one at least with great apparent benefit to the locality, and at an expense so moderate as to cause not quite three farthings addition to the weekly rent of the house; but that on the whole it has not been exercised with the energy demanded by the circumstances, nor probably in half the cases in which its exercise has been urged upon the Local Board by their excellent officer and surveyor, Mr. Hall.

That, as will be obvious from the above, the almost universal arrangement in Gateshead (where any such arrangement exists at all) is that of open privies in immediate proximity to the houses; the deficiency of sewerage being such that even the wealthier inhabitants are often unable to provide their houses with better accommodation.

That the extent of the privy and ashpit accommodation for the poorer classes and in the tenemented houses of Gateshead is nearly, if not altogether, as deficient as in Newcastle; not more than one such convenience existing frequently for every twenty, thirty, or even forty families, and occasionally none at all; perhaps one half of the poorer inhabitants (or nearly two-fifths of the entire population) being thus misera-

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bly destitute; whilst in Pipewellgate, a district containing not much less than 2000 people, probably nine tenths of them are thus situated; that this shocking deficiency of proper convenience is attended with the same results in Gateshead, as heretofore described in respect of Newcastle; the same disgusting use of "kits," the same retention of them more or less full of all kinds of filth in the single-room tenements or at the stairheads and corners, the same strewing of the gully-grates and of the surfaces of the courts and entries with excrement and garbage, the same occasional conversion of unoccupied rooms, cellars or closets into privies and ashpits, the same use of waste and vacant pieces of ground for similar purposes, and the same inevitable and intense pollution of the air both within and without the rooms and houses; to which must be added that, in one point, Gateshead is even more deficient that Newcastle, viz., in not having a single public privy.

That, under the authority of the Public Health Act the Local Board have been empowered to compel the owner or occupier of any house in the borough, whether built before or after the time of the application of that Act, to provide the same with a proper watercloset or privy and ashpit; and that watercloset have accordingly been introduced in a good many of the instances in which the exercise of this power has been recommended by Mr. Surveyor Hall; but that, generally speaking, the power has been greatly neglected; that little or no visible improvement in this respect has taken place since the constitution of the Local Board; and that even some of the registered lodging-houses have been allowed to remain destitute of such accommodation; to which should be added, that the further powers of the Act, enabling the Local Board to provide public middens and necessaries, and thereby to mitigate the evils arising from this deficiency of private ones, had, almost up to the time of our inquiry, been equally and entirely neglected.

That the privies and ashpits which did exist in Gateshead appear to have been habitually in a foul and most objectionable condition; that the same indifference to filth, and negligence in respect of having such places properly emptied and cleansed, appears to have prevailed in Gateshead, as in Newcastle; and that, where this indifference and negligence did not exist, considerable and increasing difficulties appear to have been experienced in getting such operations performed; that it was enacted by the Public Health Act, that the Local Board should see and provide that all drains, waterclosets, privies, cesspools, and ashpits, should be constructed and kept so as not to be a nuisance or injurious to health; that this enactment has, in a few instances, been complied with, but in so few out of the many calling for such compliance therewith as to have produced no sensible improvement and no appreciable diminution of the sanitary evils thence arising; and that the chief reason assigned by the Local Board for its not having been more frequently complied with is, that the multitude of such ill-kept places has been so great, as to render it hopeless to attempt the remedying thereof, until some comprehensive schemes of sewerage, scavenage, &c., shall have been devised to prevent the hitherto inevitable recurrence of such nuisances.

That the flagging, paving, &c., of two or three of the chief thoroughfares of Gateshead appears to be pretty good, but in other public streets and thoroughfares to be but indifferent, while in some few public ones, and in the majority of private courts and entries, it is either entirely deficient or else exceedingly imperfect, and sometimes so bad as to be practically almost uncleansable; that, under the authority of the Public Health Act, the Local Board have had full power to level, pave, flag, channel, alter and repair all public streets; and that this power has been exercised to a certain, although but an inadequate extent, so as to lead to an appreciable improvement in the main thoroughfares, but not to any improvement at all in the miserable courts and entries, the condition of which most urgently calls for the exercise thereof; and that the similar powers of the same Act, enabling the Local Board to compel the levelling, paving, &c., of private streets, has similarly been exercised only to the same inadequate extent, although, in one instance at least, as before mentioned, with great benefit to the locality and at a very moderate expense.

That the scavenage in Gateshead, which, up to about the time of our inquiry, seems to have been conducted on the same faulty system as has already been explained with reference to Newcastle, appears, up to the time of the late outbreak, to have been much neglected in many places, and in the miserable courts and entries to have been neglected altogether; that, at the time of that outbreak, large accumulations of offensive matter were collected in various parts of the town, and that probably 600 or 700 loads were removed during the epidemic, without exhausting them, several such still remaining unremoved up to and at the time of our visit there; and that, except in a few cases, the surface cleansing powers conferred upon them by the Public Health Act appear, especially up to the time of the late outbreak, to have been very inadequately enforced and exercised by the Local Board, though chiefly, no doubt, in respect of the faulty system of scavenage adopted or acquiesced in by them; considerable improvement having recently been visible in the scavenage of a few main thoroughfares.

That the observations previously made as to the results of the deficiency of sewers, drains, paving, scavenging and domestic accommodation, &c., upon the health of the inhabitants of Newcastle, are equally applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, to the case of Gateshead; and that the same holds with reference to the observations upon the habits of the poorer classes also:—the proportion of the poorer classes to the entire population being probably somewhat greater in Gateshead than in Newcastle;—it being incontestible that those habits are in a large proportion of cases more or less, and sometimes exceedingly, reckless and filthy; whilst on the other hand it is equally certain that the circumstances to which they are subjected are in the highest degree calculated to give origin to such habits even in persons not previously given thereto: that some, at least, among these people appear to be decidedly cleanly in matters properly within their own control; and that it can hardly be affirmed even of the dirtiest among them, that they have ever had adequate means or opportunities of keeping themselves clean.

That, under the authority of the Public Health Act, the Local Board have had power to provide for the keeping all slaughter-houses in a cleanly and proper state; that bylaws relative thereto were early issued by them, and have since been stringently and vigilantly enforced as far as possible; that the beneficial effects of that supervision is stated to have been

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visible, at all events in several cases; but that, owing to the impossibility of effectually enforcing proper regulations in such establishments in the absence of adequate sewerage, many of them have continued to be more or less nuisances, and even appear to have led to an increase of mortality during the late outbreak; that other offensive trades, especially triperies, fellmongeries, bone and guano dealeries, &c., have also prevailed to a considerable extent; that the Local Board have enforced the enactment of the Public Health Act, which provides that none such shall be newly established without the consent of the Local Board; but that, in one instance at least, they appear to have given consent to the new establishment of one such, to the obvious detriment of the health of the vicinity, and in opposition to the advice of their Surveyor; that the Local Board in Gateshead has had no specific power to abate the smoke nuisance, and that the same has accordingly increased; and that, what with coal smoke and the fumes evolved from chemical works, &c., the atmosphere of Newcastle and Gateshead is stated to be so acrid and to lead to so rapid a corrosion of the telegraph wires, that the latter were, at the time of our inquiry, in process of being taken down from their exposed position along the elevated lines of railway, and being inclosed in metal pipes as a protection against it; that the nuisance arising from swineries has been greatly abated by the Local Board, under the powers of the Public Health Act; but that a gigantic nuisance in the shape of a cowbyre has, in spite of the representations of the Surveyor, been suffered to continue in a densely populated neighbourhood, to the apparent aggravation of the mortality during the late outbreak; that the chief burial ground, in the centre of the town, appears up to and at the time of the late outbreak to have been in a very overfull and unwholesome condition, and to have been shut up accordingly as such; and that other general causes, original or aggravative, of the late outbreak, such as unwholesome food, bad fruit, excess in drink, &c., will also have been in operation in Gateshead, as well as in Newcastle, but that, in the presence of so much more important and more easily removable causes, we do not think it necessary to dwell at any length thereon.

That whilst reporting, as we do without any hesitation, that the sanitary powers of the Local Board in Gateshead had, up to and until the time of the late outbreak, been in many respects but inadequately and unsatisfactorily exercised; that the due exercise of those powers could not have failed decidedly to mitigate the virulence of that outbreak, and consequently that the inadequate exercise of them cannot but be regarded as having tended seriously to aggravate it; we, nevertheless, have considerable hesitation in expressing an opinion as to the degree of blame attaching to the Local Board in respect thereof:—that the Local Board had been constituted but very little more than two years, when the late epidemic burst upon them; that the operations of all newly constituted representative bodies, having no means of action except by additional and unpopular rates specially leviable for the purpose, are liable to be somewhat slow at first; that the Local Board of Gateshead not only commenced its preliminary operations briskly in respect of the appointment of some of its officers, but also within six or seven months after its final constitution had issued and got approved several very useful byelaws, on a variety of subjects, and again, upon the outbreak of the late epidemic, exhibited considerable energy in their endeavours to repress it, although, of course, to comparatively little purpose; that some of its officers, especially its Clerk (or rather, as we fear we ought now to say, its late Clerk) and its Surveyor, and some few of its members, have always been eager and earnest advocates of the full exercise of its sanitary powers, and have zealously afforded us, as to Mr. Superintending Inspector Rawlinson before us, all the information and assistance in their power; and that, in the actual exercise of those powers, the Local Board does not appear ever to have lagged behind, but on the contrary to have been generally in advance of public opinion in the borough, and of the views and wishes of the ratepayers at large; that, although some few of the more active members of the Local Board appear themselves to have been owners of some of the very ill-conditioned house property in the borough, and in so far to have been personally and pecuniarily interested in obstructing the exercise of the salutary powers in question, still the main obstruction thereto appears to have consisted in the impatience of sanitary rates on the part of the ratepayers at large, who have hitherto been more alive to the direct pressure of those rates than to the indirect effects of unremedied sanitary evils upon life and health, and ultimately upon the poor rates; that other and for the time, no doubt, considerable difficulties appear also to have been experienced in borrowing monies to defray the first expense of compulsory improvements on private properties, as also in recovering the monies thus expended in advance, and generally in having frequently to threaten or resort to expensive legal proceedings in order to insure a compliance with the law; to which should be added that, although nothing has been done in respect of model lodging-houses for the accommodation of the poorer classes, baths and washhouses have from their first constitution been in contemplation and in course of preparation and erection, and will probably be open to the public before the expiration of the third year from the time of that constitution.

That the observations already made in respect of the water supplied to Newcastle before and during the late outbreak, are also in the main applicable in respect of that supplied to Gateshead, both towns being supplied by the same Water Company and from the same original sources; that the possibility of local differences in the quality of the water, owing to local circumstances, was more strongly suggested by the evidence given in Gateshead, but that in other respects this was nearly identical with that given in Newcastle; that there was the same general consent as to the water having been bad, muddy, and very undesirable for drinking purposes; that the same distinct declarations were made by some witnesses as to its having had a disagreeable taste and offensive smell (although in Gateshead this was stated to have happened in other years besides 1853), whilst, on the other hand, similar statements were made by others as to their never having noticed anything of the kind; but that no one in Gateshead appeared to have heard of any such offensive changes in the water of ordinarily good wells and springs, as were alleged to have occurred in some cases in Newcastle; that while one witness was of opinion that the water was such as would predispose the public generally to diarrhœa, and so render them more susceptible of cholera, others expressed themselves to the effect that the use of it had not had any material, or at all events directly traceable, effect on the virulence of the epidemic; that the nature of the water supply in Gateshead, viz., in respect of its being but very rarely introduced into the interior of the houses, is defective, as in Newcastle, and in respect of its being less often introduced into any part of the premises, appears to be still more so; and that the extent of it, although greatly increased under the auspices of the existing Company, is still inadequate to the wants or necessities, especially of the poorer classes; that in a few instances, the Local Board have exercised their powers under the Public Health Act of compelling houseowners or occupiers, under certain circumstances, to provide their houses with water; but that the powers in question have not been fully adequate to the purpose in view, owing to the doubt whether the word "house" there can be construed to apply to a tenement or part of a house, such tenements being the only dwellings in Gateshead now destitute of a water supply.

That, with reference to the cost of the late epidemic in Gateshead, it appears that an expense of about £1,278 was incurred by the Board of Guardians for immediate services; that a public subscription of about £600 was similarly expended; that an annual expense of about £450 was incurred for the maintenance of persons thereby rendered chargeable to the poor rates, which, at only six years' purchase would amount to £2,700; so that, without considering the loss arising from stoppage of trade, &c., and

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which must have been very considerable, the cost of the recent outbreak will have amounted to some £4,600, or more than the whole public expenditure of the Local Board during the two years of its existence; and all, as before observed, in respect of Newcastle, without the slightest benefit to the town, and without the slightest defence or guarantee having been thereby obtained against the recurrence of a similar calamity and expense.

NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD DISTRICT CHURCH LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION.

AT a GENERAL MEETING of the Association, held on the 14th of August, 1854, in the Townhall, Gateshead,

JOHN BARRAS, Esq., J.P., in the Chair,

The Secretary (Mr. W. H. Brockett) read a Report of the Proceedings which had taken place in reference to the Episcopal and Capitular Estates Management Act, 1854; and it was unanimously resolved:—

On the motion of William Gray, Esq.,
Seconded by Francis Bennett, Esq.,

1. That the Report just read be received and approved.

On the motion of George Hawks, Esq.,
Seconded by William Wylam, Esq.,

2. That the very best thanks of this meeting be given to the Secretary, Mr. Brockett, for his invaluable services and assistance in promoting the passing of the Capitular and Episcopal Estates Management Bill in its present form, by which so many important facilities for enfranchisement have been secured; and, also, that the best thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. J. S. Forster, for his valuable assistance to the Secretary.

On the motion of Charles Rayne, Esq.,
Seconded by N. Andrews, Esq.,

3. That in order to meet the expenses which have been, and may be incurred in connection with the association, the leaseholders be requested to pay their assessment of threepence in the pound as soon as possible.

On the motion of J. S. Forster, Esq.,
Seconded by G. J. Kenmir, Esq.,

4. That the leaseholders of the districts of Durham and Sunderland be also requested to contribute their quota of the assessment, the efforts of the association having been made in their service, as well as that of other districts.

On the motion of R. C. Forster, Esq.,
Seconded by George Hawks, Esq.,

5. That the thanks of the association be and are hereby voted to Mr. Hutt, the member for this borough, for the valuable assistance he rendered to the deputation. That the thanks of the association be also given to the other members of the legislature who took an active part in promoting the success of the bill.

JOHN BARRAS, Chairman.

The Chairman having left the chair, the Thanks of the Meeting were voted to him for his services.

Gateshead, August 14, 1854.

NOTICE is hereby given, that, on the Sixteenth Day of October next, application will be made to Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, assembled at Quarter Sessions, in and for the County of Durham, at Durham, in the said County, for an Order for turning, diverting, and stopping-up entirely, a certain FOOTWAY, measuring Two Hundred and Seventy-Five Yards or thereabouts in length, situate in the Parish of Gateshead, in the Borough of Gateshead, in the said County of Durham, at or near to the Team Rivulet, and commencing at a point at the side of a Turnpike Road leading from Gateshead to Hexham, where the said road crosses the Team Rivulet, and extending across a Field belonging to and in the occupation of Robert Stirling Newall, and terminating at a point at or near the North Corner of the said Field; in lieu of which said Footway, a new Footway, measuring Two Hundred and Seventy-Three Yards or thereabouts in length, commencing at the said point at the side of the Turnpike Road leading from Gateshead to Hexham, where the said Road crosses the Team Rivulet, and extending across a part of the said Field belonging to and in the occupation of Robert Stirling Newall, on the East Side of the said old Footway, and terminating at the said point, at or near the North Corner of the said Field, is intended to be made and provided for the Public, in and through Land belonging to the said Robert Stirling Newall, and which proposed Footway will be nearer and more commodious to the Public than the Footway just mentioned, and proposed to be turned, diverted, and stopped-up.

Notice is hereby also given, that the Certificate of Two Justices having viewed the said Footway proposed to be turned, diverted, and stopped-up, with the Plan of the old and proposed new Footway, will be lodged with the Clerk of the Peace for the said County of Durham, on the Sixteenth day of September next.

Dated this twelfth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifty four.

GATESHEAD BIBLE SOCIETY.—The annual meeting was held on Thursday, Aug. 17, in the hall of the Mechanics' Institute, and was more numerously attended than usual. The chair was taken by the having been read, with also the general balance-sheet, Auxiliary, Ladies', Mechanics' and Felling Societies, Mayor, (David Haggie, Esq.) The reports of the it appeared that 778 Bibles and Testaments had been issued during the year, and that, after meeting all engagements, a balance remained in hand of £28 16s. 11d. Upwards of £52 had been contributed to the fund for circulating a Chinese translation of the New Testament in the Celestial Empire; and the Rev. C. R. Alford, of Doncaster, the deputation from the Parent Society, stated that, instead of sending, as originally proposed, one million Testaments to China, the liberality of the British public had sufficed to double the number. The total receipts of the year, for ordinary purposes, in aid of the Jubilee and Chinese Funds, had exceeded £222,000 by several hundreds of pounds—a larger annual income than had ever before been realized by any society. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. Messrs. Speck, Herbert, Ingram, and Nelson, and by several laymen, and closed with a vote of thanks to the Mayor.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.—The Building Committee met on Aug. 17, (Mr. Alderman Smith in the chair,) when arrangements were made for a canvass to complete the building fund. A letter was read from Mr. William Cook, who, being unable to attend the meeting, made a written intimation of a subscription of £25 from Ralph Walters, Esq. Several other new subscriptions were announced, and the meeting was adjourned to Thursday, Aug. 24. The Dean of Durham has since subscribed £50.

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GATESHEAD POOR LAW UNION.—A special meeting was held on Aug. 15. Present:—The Chairman (Mr. Garbutt), the Vice-Chairman (Mr. Ald. Robson), and Messrs. Makepeace, Clark (William), Anderson, Bagnall, Simpson, Smith, Sowerby, Greene, Hodgson, Cook, Clark (Robert), and Brinton. Messrs. M'Allum (Heworth), Wilson (Gateshead), Davis (Wrekenton), and Callander (Greenside), medical officers, were in attendance, and reported upon the state of the public health in their several districts. It appeared that the ordinary autumnal diarrhœa was somewhat more prevalent than usual, but Mr. Wilson had had no case of Asiatic cholera beyond the one reported last week. Mr. M'Allum said there had been a fatal case at Billquay, but it was not of local origin. A sailor had been landed from a vessel mortally ill, and died on Monday within 18 hours. He had been seized on the Thames, and continued better and worse for 10 or 12 days. Mr. M'Allum said he had been called to no case of diarrhœa in the clean locality of High Felling; but the disease prevailed in the Low Felling, where there was much uncleanliness. Mr. Makepeace said the Low Felling was in a filthy state:—there were places in which he might almost say you could *see* the smell. Mr. Bagnall reported upon the sanitary measures which had been adopted at Winlaton. Mr. Hodgson expressed a hope that enough had been said to stimulate individuals and authorities to attend to the removal of nuisances. He thought, however, no further steps need be taken that day, and would move that the further consideration of the subject be deferred until next board-day. Mr. Greene seconded the motion, and congratulated the meeting that the union, on the whole, was in much the same state of health as ordinarily prevailed at this season of the year.—The motion was unanimously carried.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GATESHEAD OBSERVER.

SIR, — I was pleased to learn, from last week's *Observer*, that Mr. Robert Warden is a candidate for the office of superintendent of the Gateshead Baths and Washhouses.

Having worked with Mr. Warden as a local Sanitary Reformer, I can bear testimony to his intelligence and zeal in sanitary affairs, which render him a valuable man in carrying out the intentions of the promoters of the institution. He is an active, industrious mechanic, and practically acquainted with the particular manipulations that would be required of him in such a situation.

A more suitable person there cannot be, and I earnestly trust that the town-council will do the borough the service of securing such a one.

Yours truly,

Gateshead, August 16, 1854. F. D.

(The Council will no doubt throw the place open to competition, and make the appointment on public grounds.—ED. G.O.)

SIR,—I am glad to find that what I said in my last letter concerning the Building Fund of the Dispensary is so fully realized. The New Dispensary seems to be the popular subject of the day in Gateshead. The people seem almost to have forgotten the Russian war; and the New Dispensary is all the go. Our working population, I am glad to see, are taken hold of neck and heels; and there is going to be a smart contest amongst the noble craftsmen of our large manufactories on both sides of the Tyne as to who is to be at the head of the poll. Messrs. Stephenson & Co.'s workmen, who are ever foremost in works of charity, say they will be at the head:—in fact, they have begun to get up the steam already. Messrs. Hawthorn's men say they will do their best for so good an institution; and others on the Newcastle side have said the same. I have no doubt, Mr. Editor, but the Newcastle lads will behave nobly; but still, I believe our true Britons in Gateshead will do better, and go ahead of all competition. Our Hawks's, Abbot's, Allhusen's, Gray & Crow's, Pattinson & Co.'s, and many others, will do credit to themselves, to the noble institution for which their aid is needed, and to Gateshead. This will be like all contested elections:—those who make the best canvass, will be at the head of the poll.

I am, Mr. Editor,

A HEARTY WELL WISHER TO THE DISPENSARY.

Gateshead, August 18, 1854.

SIR,—In your paper of last week, you have an article on "The Cholera." In your concluding remarks you praise our Town Surveyor's plan for the removal of filth in Gateshead. I for one readily admit he is deserving of praise for his timely project; and I would still award him more, if he or any of his staff would take a walk through any of our back lanes, to view the overheaped middensteads which are left to accumulate for the convenience of the contractor.

For my own part, I think the oftener the contents are removed the better it will be for the poor people, who are compelled to bear the unpleasant effluvia arising from the decomposition of the multifarious matter which is allowed to remain longer than there is any necessity. Many a tenant is compelled to tolerate abominable nuisances, rather than incur his landlord's displeasure for making known his selfish neglect. Therefore, I again repeat, it is absolutely necessary for us to have some one employed to see that the contractor and landlords do their duty towards the people of Gateshead.

If our Local Board of Health do not endeavour to remedy the above grievances, it will certainly prove that they are not doing their duty to us, nor are they taking means to prevent the union of Cholera with Dirt, which is believed to be the prolific source of disease and death.

In conclusion, I beg to offer another suggestion to the gentlemen who compose our Local Board of Health, and sincerely hope they will carry it out:—namely, that they will make arrangements for consuming the smoke which will be made at the Public Baths and Laundries, and by that means set an example to our manufacturers, and also prove to them that it is practicable, and can be done, so that Gateshead may not continually be enveloped in murky clouds of smoke, and our shops and dwellings filled with soot.

Hoping that the above suggestions will be attended to by the guardians of the public health,

I remain, sir, yours respectfully,

WILLIAM DINGWALL.

Gateshead, August 15, 1854.

Mr. Tom Taylor has been appointed Secretary to the new Board of Health, with an annual salary of £1,000.

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GATESHEAD POOR LAW UNION.

BOARD ROOM, AUGUST 22.—Present:—The Chairman and Vice-Chairman (Mr. Garbutt and Mr. Ald. Robson), and Messrs. Anderson, Makepeace, Cook, Smith, Green, Hodgson, Sowerby, Brinton, Clark (William), and Tomlin.

The CLERK read the minutes, and submitted the usual papers. The cheques to be issued amounted to £650 13s. 10d.; the balance in the Treasurer's hands was £957 15s. 10d.; surplus, £307 2s. Whickham was £184 10s. in arrear, (but was understood to have paid in £32 since the account was made up). The other parishes were £231 5s. in advance. The Finance Committee estimated that £6,880 would be required for the half-year commencing with October, and recommended that calls be made as follows:—Gateshead, £3,000; Heworth, £1,100; Chopwell, £100; Crawcrook, £110; Ryton, £170; Ryton Woodside, £280; Stella, £120; Whickham, £950; Winlaton, £1,050; to carry out which recommendation, a resolution, moved by the VICE-CHAIRMAN, and seconded by Mr. Ald. SMITH, was agreed to.

Some routine business having been transacted, a circular was read from the Poor Law Board, suggesting the abatement of nuisances in the union, the avoidance of overcrowding in the workhouse, and other sanitary precautions. Mr. MAKEPEACE, in reply to the CHAIRMAN, made a verbal report of the proceedings of the Heworth Committee of Guardians, and spoke very highly of the conduct of Mr. Davison, of the rural police, as a gratuitous inspector of nuisances. The CHAIRMAN referred to a communication from the Whickham Committee as to the appointment of an inspector. The VICE-CHAIRMAN moved that each Committee in the union have power to appoint an inspector at a reasonable rate of remuneration. The motion was seconded by Mr. MAKEPEACE, supported by Mr. HODGSON, and adopted.

Mr. MAKEPEACE inquired if, in the case of Mr. Counsellor, a tender of the sum of £100, awarded to him for his services in 1853, had been made in due form of law? and, after a short conversation, it was resolved that such a tender be made.

Mr. HODGSON brought forward his motion as to the salary of Mr. Usher, assistant overseer and collector of rates in Gateshead, who, he said, was not so well remunerated as similar officers in the neighbourhood. When he entered upon his office, a few years ago, the entries in the rate-book were but 1,554, and now they were 3,523; while the rateable value of the property had risen from £40,000 to £55,000. His duties were proportionately increased; and, in discharging them, he had, as they all knew, to go over a wide range of ground. He ought to be as fairly paid as other officers in the district holding like appointments. They all knew how well he discharged his duties — how efficiently and how creditably; and he would move that his salary be raised from £120 a-year to £150.

Mr. SMITH seconded the motion, and said he was sure no ratepayer would complain of the increase, when it was known how the same duties were recompensed in Newcastle, as shown in the following table:—

	Population.	Rateable Value.	Ratepayers.	Salary.
All Saints'	26,110 ...	£59,000 ...	3,000 ...	£200
St. Andrew's.....	15,639 ...	60,000 ...	2,000 ...	160
St. Nicholas's	5,361 ...	26,000 ...	682 ...	160
St. John's	9,858 ...	29,000 ...	800 ...	160
Westgate	16,479 ...	30,000 ...	2,000 ...	160

These were the facts as to Newcastle:—in Gateshead, with a population of 25,000, a rateable value of £55,000, and 3,523 ratepayers, Mr. Usher had but £120. Under these circumstances, he thought the proposal fair and reasonable, and had great pleasure in seconding it.

Mr. BRINTON said, he had no desire to prevent Mr. Usher or any other public servant from being fairly paid for his labours; but it was perfectly well known that his duties were more than any one man could properly perform, and no increase of salary would enable him to do more work. There were great complaints about the imperfect collection of the rates, and especially in the outskirts. There were also losses by removals not being attended to; and these were evils not to be cured by any increase of salary. The better course, he thought, would be to let the ratepayers appoint another officer.

Mr. GREENE also demurred to Mr. Hodgson's proposal. He would leave the present question with the overseers, who best knew what was needful to be done. They must be careful how they increased the burdens of the ratepayers. At the present moment they were calling for an increased levy, previous calls having been too small.

Mr. MAKEPEACE said, he had himself heard Mr. Usher state his duties to be more than any one man could discharge. Often when you called at his office there was nobody in:—which must be the case, for Mr. Usher had to go out to collect. If an assistant overseer and a collector of rates were appointed, there could be one in and one out. The proposed increase would only enable Mr. Usher to procure the aid of a boy. He would move that an assistant overseer be appointed.

Mr. HODGSON said, he had no wish to persist in a motion that was not acceptable to the Board. He had not before heard of those complaints which Mr. Brinton said were so general. He had been himself three years *ex officio* an overseer, and always found Mr. Usher attentive to his duties. The present motion was intended to enable Mr. Usher to procure assistance, as he was prepared to do; but if the Board considered it would be better to have another officer appointed, he would withdraw his motion, and the question could be taken up at a future meeting. Mr. Greene had referred to the increased levy; but the fact simply was, that whereas the ratepayers had paid too little before, they must now pay a little more.

Mr. SMITH said, in All Saints', Newcastle, it had been thought better, when in the same position as Gateshead, not to appoint another officer, but to advance Mr. Gray's salary, and let him get assistance.

Mr. TOMLIN observed, that such a course was to give to a servant the power which belonged to the ratepayers. He wished to know if Mr. Usher did not hold some other office.

The CHAIRMAN said he was a sub-registrar of births and marriages, (which, we understood some Guardian to state, brought him in £40 a-year).

Mr. GREENE concurred in the opinion that the public should appoint its own servants. The duties thrown upon Mr. Usher were certainly not sufficiently remunerated — the salary was less than in other instances; and while in Newcastle a parish consisted of no more than a few streets, Gateshead had a wide outlying district, including the Fell.

The CHAIRMAN was sorry this subject had been

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brought forward. He thought they were treading on the toes of another public body. They had no proof that the overseers approved the present movement. He would not go into the question whether the duties of the office were well or ill performed. He would simply observe, that with the exception of Mr. Usher no other officer of the kind held his appointment in the union from the Board; and whenever a vacancy occurred, the Board in London surrendered to the ratepayers the powers which of right belonged to them, and which had been usurped. He would urge Mr. Hodgson to withdraw his motion; and if the churchwardens and overseers thought it requisite that any steps should be taken, he had no doubt that this Board would facilitate any proper arrangement.

Mr. HODGSON, with Mr. SMITH'S consent, withdrew the motion; and the Board proceeded to the relief of the poor.

BUILDING FUND.

LIST of the SUBSCRIBERS to the FUND for procuring a BUILDING for the GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.

Cuthbert Ellison	£380	0	0	D. B. White, M.D.	£5	5	0
William Kell	50	0	0	William Hymers	5	5	0
Joseph Garnett	50	0	0	J. A. Hymers	5	5	0
Gray & Crow	50	0	0	George Bell	5	5	0
Hawks, Crawshay, & Sons	50	0	0	George Boyd	5	5	0
The Dean of Durham	50	0	0	George Greene	5	5	0
William Hutt, M.P.	25	0	0	Ralph Coulthard & Co.	5	5	0
William Hutt, M.P., for Self and Partners, (Marley Hill Colliery)	25	0	0	Owners of Oakwellgate Colliery	5	5	0
Lord Ravensworth	25	0	0	Lambton & Co.	5	5	0
John Barras	25	0	0	Newcastle & Gateshead Gas Company	5	5	0
John Greene	25	0	0	Samuel Neville	5	5	0
R. S. Newall & Co.	25	0	0	W. Watson, jun.	5	5	0
The Borough Magistrates	25	0	0	Ralph Wylam	5	5	0
Ralph Walters	25	0	0	John Potts	5	0	0
William Brown	21	0	0	Rev. D. Akenhead	5	0	0
Joseph Robson	20	0	0	John Sowerby	5	0	0
John Abbot	20	0	0	John Fenwick	5	0	0
Mrs. Bewick	20	0	0	James Pollock	5	0	0
R. W. Hodgson	15	15	0	George Brinton	5	0	0
John Colman	10	10	0	J. & J. Kimpster	5	0	0
Henry Brady	10	10	0	Joseph Cowen	5	0	0
Rev. Dr. Davies	10	10	0	Rev. John Collinson	5	0	0
J. W. Swinburne	10	10	0	W. Barkus, jun.	5	0	0
G. J. Kenmir	10	10	0	Joseph Laycock	5	0	0
John Akenhead	10	10	0	E. Richardson	5	0	0
Michael Greene	10	10	0	Thomas Morland	5	0	0
G. H. Ramsay	10	10	0	C. Garbutt & Son	5	0	0
Henry Smith	10	10	0	Thomas Hewett	5	0	0
Rev. W. Atkinson	10	10	0	Ralph Carr	5	0	0
Haggie Brothers	10	10	0	C. Allhusen	5	0	0
Mrs. Grahamsley	10	10	0	William Kimpster	5	0	0
William Wailes	10	10	0	James Smith	4	4	0
G. T. Gibson	10	10	0	A. Hood & Co.	3	3	0
Thomas Wilson	10	0	0	John Davidson	3	3	0
Robert Ormston	10	0	0	William Douglas	2	2	0
Aspdin, Ord, & Co.	10	0	0	George Hunter	2	2	0
R. D. Shafto, M.P.	10	0	0	John Lister	2	2	0
J. G. Abbot	10	0	0	B. Matchitt	2	2	0
Edmund Graham	10	0	0	William Wylam	2	2	0
Joseph Hawks	10	0	0	William Hall	2	2	0
C. J. Pearson	5	5	0	William Robinson	2	2	0
Robert Davis	5	5	0	John Vickers	2	2	0
William Cook	5	5	0	Dr. Tinniswood	2	2	0
Francis Bennett	5	5	0	John Clark	2	2	0
E. Charlton, M.D.	5	5	0	F. P. Ionn	2	2	0
D. Embleton, M.D.	5	5	0	Benjamin Gray	2	2	0
				William Wilson	2	2	0
				John Wilson	2	2	0

James Joicey	£2	2	0	R. Vernon	£1	1	0
J. B. Howey	2	2	0	R. H. Wilson	1	1	0
James Hewitt	2	2	0	J. S. Forster	1	1	0
Gaddy & Lamb	2	2	0	John Woolston	1	1	0
T. Featherston	2	2	0	Joseph Fairs	1	1	0
William Muschamp	2	2	0	W. C. Greenwell	1	1	0
John Ormston	2	2	0	John Skelton	1	1	0
Miss Murray	2	2	0	Friend	1	1	0
W. E. Brockett	2	2	0	J. Jordan	1	1	0
Forster Walker	2	2	0	Richardson & Coxon	1	1	0
William Beaumont	2	2	0	Henry Ingledew	1	1	0
S. A. Cail	2	2	0	James Snowball	1	1	0
Thomas Sowerby	2	2	0	William Hay	1	0	0
J. Phillips	2	2	0	Anthony Parker	1	0	0
William Daggett	2	2	0	John Glaholm	1	0	0
Edward Mounsey	2	2	0	James Arnott	1	0	0
J. Lawrence, jun.	2	2	0	Thomas Simpson	1	0	0
H. Watson & Co.	2	2	0	William Douglass	1	0	0
A Friend	2	2	0	R. S. Stanley	1	0	0
Philip Smith	2	2	0	James Robson	1	0	0
James Wilson	2	0	0	Peter Davidson	1	0	0
R. Wake	2	0	0	John Burnup	1	0	0
Mrs. Akenhead	2	0	0	H. A. Wilkinson	1	0	0
William Ridley	2	0	0	Rev. C. Moody	1	0	0
J. H. & T. Richardson	2	0	0	Thomas Bowman	1	0	0
C. M. Masterton	2	0	0	J. & W. Robson	1	0	0
John Clayton	2	0	0	A Lady Friend	1	0	0
Collection at a Public Meeting held at the Grey Horse, 1st April.	1	10	0	William Bulcraig	1	0	0
H. L. Monro	1	1	0	P. J. Main	1	0	0
James Clephan	1	1	0	Capt. Taylor	0	10	6
Joseph Clephan	1	1	0	R. Currie	0	10	6
B. J. Prockter	1	1	0	R. Morton	0	10	6
William Snowball	1	1	0	Capt. Storey	0	10	6
John Strong	1	1	0	C. R. F. Thiedemenn	0	10	6
I. L. Bell	1	1	0	Mrs. Wakefield	0	10	6
Thomas Bell	1	1	0	Richard Crowley	0	10	6
William Wright	1	1	0	Joseph Maughan	0	10	6
George Brown	1	1	0	Thomas Wilkin	0	10	0
James Hedley	1	1	0	William Clayton	0	10	0
R. J. Morrow	1	1	0	A Friend	0	10	0
Mather & Reed	1	1	0	John Angus	0	10	0
Ebenezer Robson	1	1	0	R. Robson	0	10	0
George Sill	1	1	0	F. Staniford	0	10	0
A Friend	1	1	0	C. F. Springmann	0	10	0
Robert Watson	1	1	0	John Goodfellow	0	10	0
John Watson	1	1	0	W. Atkin	0	10	0
W. J. Van Haansbergen	1	1	0	Henry Dunn	0	10	0
John Harrison	1	1	0	Thomas Sill	0	10	0
W. B. Ogden	1	1	0	Alfred Debenham	0	10	0
A Friend	1	1	0	Thomas Atkinson	0	10	0
John Robertson	1	1	0	R. Brown	0	7	6
J. W. Robinson	1	1	0	A Friend (per Mr. Snowball)	0	5	0
Benjamin Bigger	1	1	0	A Friend	0	5	0
S. & E. Culley	1	1	0	A Friend	0	5	0
G. Sissons	1	1	0	E. Liddell	0	5	0
W. Joicey	1	1	0	A Young Man	0	5	0
J. T. Barker	1	1	0	A Friend	0	5	0
Mounsey & I'Anson	1	1	0	John Crimson	0	5	0
George Little	1	1	0	Miss Allan	0	5	0
Mrs. Coulson	1	1	0	A Friend	0	5	0
G. W. Beckwith	1	1	0	John Ismay	0	5	0
J. T. Carr	1	1	0	W. Armstrong	0	5	0
J. B. Alexander	1	1	0	A Friend	0	2	6
W. Yellowley	1	1	0	A Friend	0	2	6
Joshua Watson	1	1	0	A Friend	0	2	6
James Turner	1	1	0	William Wilson	0	2	6
				W. Richardson	0	2	6
				Thomas Hogg	0	2	6
				— Richardson	0	2	6
				A. Atchison	0	2	6

Subscribers' Names will be thankfully received by the Treasurer of the Building Fund, JOHN GREENE, Esq.; by JOHN KIMPSTER, Esq., Treasurer of the Dispensary; by the Secretary; or at the Office of the *Gateshead Observer*.

WILLIAM KELL, Hon. Sec.

40, High-street, Gateshead, September, 1854.

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GATESHEAD POOR LAW UNION.

BOARD ROOM, TUESDAY, SEPT. 5.—Present:—Mr. John Sowerby (in the chair), Mr. H. G. Liddell, M.P., and Messrs. Anderson, Clark (William), Brinton, Smith, Makepeace, and Bagnall.

The CLERK read the minutes, &c. The cheques to be issued amounted to £255. The balance in the Treasurer's hands was £1,093 2s., giving a surplus of £838 2s. Whickham was £332 in arrear, and Winlaton £101 10s.: the other districts in the union were all paid up. Owing (said the Clerk) to the absence of Mr. Kell on the Continent, no tender had yet been made to Mr. Counsellor of the £100 awarded to him by the Board; but it was arranged that he should have an opportunity afforded him of making such tender before any costs were incurred.

Mr. MAKEPEACE reported that the Heworth Committee had resolved to recommend the appointment of Sergt. Davidson as inspector of nuisances, with a payment of 5s. per week. He had proved himself very effective in this capacity; and if, as was probable, he should not be able to attend to the whole of Heworth, an assistant might be appointed for part of the district. He was happy to say that considerable improvement had been effected in the sanitary condition of the place.

Mr. Ald. SMITH thought it might be well to come to some arrangement as to a scale of payment for the whole union.

Mr. BAGNALL, who reported the sanitary labours of his own district, concurred with Mr. Smith. They were anxious at Winlaton to have some general scale laid down. He doubted, also, whether it would be right in the Board to appoint the servants of other parties to the office.

It was ordered that the subject stand over to another meeting.

Some routine business was transacted, and the Board proceeded to the relief of the poor.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.—The Dispensary Committee on Sept. 5 (Mr. S. Cail in the chair), and the Building Committee on September 6 (Mr. Ald. Smith in the chair), assembled for the transaction of business. From the statements which were made it appeared that the building fund was going on prosperously, and promised to be, eventually, adequate to its object. The Building Committee were much gratified with the willingness which they had witnessed among the sons of industry to aid the present project—Messrs. Smith and Kimpster handing in the joint contributions of the workmen of Mr. John Wilson, builder, and of the assistants of Mr. William Snowball, draper, as an earnest of what may be expected from such sources. Additional subscriptions:—

Trinity House	£26	5	0	Charles I'Anson	£1	1	0
Crowley, Millington, & Co.	20	0	0	Edward Joicey	1	1	0
John Potts	10	10	0	John Joicey	1	1	0
R. Coulthard & Co.	10	10	0	Anthony Nichol	1	1	0
Charles Bulmer	5	5	0	R. M. Allan	1	1	0
Matthew Plummer	5	0	0	George Palmer	1	1	0
William Snowball's Assistants	1	2	6	George Stokoe	1	1	0
R. Morton	1	1	0	John Usher	1	1	0
John Anderson & Co.	1	1	0	Thomas Chicken	1	1	0
Edmund Graham, jun.	1	1	0	Joseph Dean	1	1	0
				T. A.	0	10	0
				A Friend	0	5	0
				Samuel Thompson	0	4	6

OPEN AIR SERVICES OF THE CHURCH. — We have from time to time recorded the commencement, by clergymen of the Established Church, of open-air services. The clergy of Gateshead are now to be added to the number. The Rector (Dr. Davies) last night (Sept. 8) collected a congregation under the High Level Bridge in Pipewellgate, and preached from Col. i, 28, on the Christian ministry—its leading subject and ultimate design.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT.—Her Majesty, Prince Albert, and the royal children, passed through Gateshead and Newcastle, on Sept. 14, on their way to Edinburgh and Balmoral. Their stay in Newcastle did not exceed five minutes; and, in accordance with the very natural wish of the Queen, the public were not admitted to the Central Station; but passengers who arrived from various parts, previous to the royal advent, remained inside until the royal exodus. The Chief Magistrate of Newcastle was present, in honour of the Chief Magistrate of England. Also, Cornet Winfield, with a troop of the 1st Dragoon Guards, and Capt. Hussey, with a company of the 26th Cameronians. Outside the station, wherever a chance was afforded of obtaining a peep at the princely passengers, spectators had stationed themselves all over the two towns; for, without any advertisement, everybody had got to know that "the Queen was coming;" and knew, too, the exact time. At 20 minutes past 3 the royal train had to be at the Newcastle station; and there it was—to a minute. A pilot engine was in advance—another engine behind. The train came from London to York by the Great Northern; and, like all the trains of that line, had a plain, solid, substantial aspect—yet elegant and graceful withal. It bore, of course, the customary monster railway crown. The Queen, Prince Albert, and Princess Royal were in one carriage:—the Countess Mount Edgcombe, the Prince of Wales, and other royal children, in another. Sir George Grey is the Secretary of State in attendance upon Her Majesty. The Queen was loudly cheered on her departure, and bowed her acknowledgments. On the North Eastern line, the train was driven, from York to Darlington, by Thomas Maddison; from Darlington to Newcastle, by Matthew Burdis; from Newcastle to Bilton, by Joseph Elliott; and from Bilton to Berwick, by Thomas Brown; all express enginemen. The train reached Edinburgh at a quarter to 7, having been no more than 10 hours and three quarters on the road from London. Her Majesty returns by way of Newcastle on the 30th inst.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.—We have the gratification of announcing that the excellent choir of St. John's church, Gateshead Fell, will give a concert, on Sept. 26, for the benefit of the Building Fund. The Mayor of Newcastle (Ralph Dodds, Esq.) has, in the most handsome and neighbourly spirit, made a donation of £5. Mr. T. Hewett, too, who had already put down his name for that sum, taking into consideration the difficulty of raising the closing (compared with the commencing) hundreds of a fund, and willing to encourage those who, like Mr. Kimpster, Mr. Ald. Smith, and other zealous friends of the charity, are exerting themselves so industriously to secure it a fitting habitation, has come forward and raised his contribution to £10 10s.:—an example which, we have reason to believe, will be followed by others. Mr. John Potts, Mr. R. Coulthard, Mr. B. J. Prockter, and one or two more, had already taken

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this step; and such is the spirit manifested by the friends of the institution, that the least sanguine, now, begin to feel confident of success.

G. B. Falconar	£5	5	0	W. Young	1	1	0
William Dunn	2	2	0	Joseph Heald	1	1	0
Jonathan Robson	2	2	0	George Angus	1	1	0
Wm. Brown, Mount Pleasant	1	1	0	Isaac Hetherington, W. Dickinson	1	1	0
John Golightly	1	1	0	Robinson & Son	0	10	6
Robert Thompson	1	1	0	Charles Birney	0	10	6
W. S. Lishman	1	1	0	W. Loades	0	10	6

CHURCH LEASEHOLDERS.

An adjourned meeting of the Newcastle and Gateshead District Church Leaseholders' Association, was held on Monday, Sept. 11, in the Townhall, Gateshead, (Charles Rayne, Esq., of Wallsend, in the chair). Besides the Chairman there were present:—The Rev. William Hawks, and Messrs. R. C. Forster, Thomas Hewett, William Wylam, N. Andrews, Michael Hobson, J. S. Forster, &c., &c.

The Secretary (Mr. W. H. Brockett) reported that he had communicated the thanks of the association to the peers and commoners who had assisted in passing the Episcopal and and Capitular Estates Bill, and had received replies from Lord John Russell and others. The expenditure, so far, had been £94 7s. 6d., and £102 16s. 9d. had been received, leaving £8 9s. 3d. in hand, to meet outstanding claims amounting to from £60 to £70. Mr. B. stated the success, or the absence of it, resulting from applications for aid from Sunderland, Durham, Worcester, South Shields, and other districts benefited by the passing of the bill.

Mr. Hewett said, the costs incurred had been very reasonable, and he had no doubt the whole would be raised. Every one who had benefited by the bill would be ready to contribute to the costs.

Mr. Wylam stated that Mr. Fairs, a very active person, had been appointed to complete the collection of the rates.

Mr. Hewett: A very proper man.

Mr. Hobson: A famous collector.

The Chairman hoped that the arrears would be vigorously looked after. At Wallsend the rate would be cheerfully paid.

The Secretary stated that Mr. Thompson had undertaken to collect at Wallsend, and some progress had been made.

Mr. Hewett said, there were not only the expenses incurred to be defrayed, but a deep debt was owing to their invaluable Secretary, of whose kind services the leaseholders were all fully sensible. Those services had been rendered unconditionally, and some decision should be come to as to the manner in which they should be requited. He wished that the association had been in a position to reward Mr. Brockett according to his deserts. That they could not do; but he would propose that a gratuity of £100 be given to him in acknowledgment of his labours. (Applause.)

The Rev. William Hawks seconded the motion. They must all, he said, have much pleasure in supporting such a proposal. Mr. Brockett's must have been a most arduous task, and he had performed it admirably. The lessees, whose interests he had so well served, required nothing more from the lessors and the legislature than what they were justly entitled to. That was a matter, however, as to which there was some difference of opinion; and it required considerable talent and energy to procure such a bill as would give the leaseholders a fair chance of attaining their just rights. To state their case with proper ability, and to make Government and the members of the legislature familiar with it in all its bearings, was an essential requisite to success; and the deputations which had been got up, and the other means adopted in promotion of the bill, must have involved great labour and self-sacrifice. That Mr. Brockett had been the main agent in accomplishing the work, every one cheerfully admitted; and he had therefore much gratification in seconding the motion. (Applause.)

The Chairman put the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Brockett returned thanks, and said, if the measure should be accompanied by the wished-for result, he would be more gratified by that reward than even by the handsome sum bestowed upon him by the association.

In reply to the Chairman, Mr. Brockett stated that he was not aware that any leaseholder in this diocese had yet made application under the bill; but in the diocese of Carlisle, where the property was already in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, an application had been made for renewal. The answer was, that no renewal would be granted, but the Commissioners would receive any proposal for a purchase or sale of the property. He thought it would be desirable, that every lessee in this diocese, on the expiration of the term of seven years, sho ld immediately renew.

There was some conversation as to the propriety of making immediate applications under the bill, and the general feeling seemed to be that the time was at hand when such a step should be taken.

Thanks were voted to the Chairman, and the meeting was adjourned to Monday, October 9.

DURHAM AND TYNE BRIDGE TURNPIKE ROAD AND BRANCH.

NOTICE is hereby given, that a MEETING of the Trustees of the said Road will be held at the Grey Horse Inn, in Gateshead, on Thursday, the Nineteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, at 12 o'clock at noon; at which Meeting the Trustees present will, if they shall think fit, lessen and reduce the Tolls granted by the Local Act, and now taken and collected at the several Turnpikes, Tollgates, and Side Bars upon the said Road and Branch, to such sum or sums, and during such time, as the said Trustees shall think proper; such Reduction (if any) to commence from and after the First day of January now next ensuing; and in case no Reduction of Toll shall be ordered at the said Meeting, the Trustees present will, if they shall think fit, make an Order for allowing Compositions in lieu of Toll at Gateshead and Shipcote Gates, to be entered into upon such terms as the said Trustees shall direct.

By Order of the Trustees,
JOSEPH WILLIS SWINBURNE, Clerk.

FOR SALE, by Private Contract, all that Freehold DWELLING HOUSE, containing Three Rooms and an Attic, with Yard and other conveniences, situate at Gateshead Low Fell, in the occupation of Mrs. Nicholson.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. George Armstrong, Solicitor, Bridge-end, Gateshead.

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REVENUE AND TRADE; PAST AND PRESENT.

THE Board of Trade tables may be reckoned, not only among the most interesting documents published by authority, but among the most agreeable also. As the verifiers of free-trade foresight, and refuters of those prophets of evil who were alternately croaking and yelling against the liberal commercial policy of Peel, they are invaluable:—and, more gratifying still, they are lessons for the instruction of other nations in those interchanges of peaceful intercourse by which the only true prosperity of commerce is to be promoted.

We have now before us the Trade and Navigation Accounts of 1836 and 1853—showing the relative extent of our commercial transactions at the commencement and termination of a period of eighteen years; and we deem the figures they reveal and the success they indicate so extraordinary as to merit the careful observation of every well-wisher of his country—not only in the British empire but in every corner of the earth.

Now, let us see the quantities of certain great articles of cousumption that have been imported and exported in the years 1836 and 1853.

We imported—

	1836.	1853.
Of wheat .....qrs.	168,647	4,949,314
Of flour .....cwts.	255,831	4,646,400
Of rice .....cwts.	186,926	1,505,118
Of tea .....lbs.	49,307,701	70,735,552
Of sugar (unrefined).....cwts.	4,649,161	7,284,382
Of tobacco .....lbs.	52,232,907	40,620,843
Of wine.....gals.	9,406,083	11,034,708
Of rum .....gals.	4,993,902	4,204,730
Of brandy.....gals.	2,125,167	5,006,155
Of raw silk.....lbs.	4,453,081	6,480,724
Of cotton wool .....cwts.	3,633,563	7,990,329
Of cloverseed.....cwts.	95,499	214,829
Of hemp (undressed) .....cwts.	586,032	940,022
Of tallow.....cwts.	1,186,364	1,178,370
Of timber .....loads	687,885	923,969
Of hides (untanned).....cwts.	352,061	750,309

Then, the declared value of our exports:—

Of coal	£332,861	£1,607,743
Of earthenware	837,774	1,337,265
Of glass(notwithstanding the importation of foreign glass) ...	553,384	518,451
Of hardware and cutlery	2,271,313	3,663,856
Of iron and steel	2,342,674	10,848,082
Of copper and brass.....	1,072,344	1,851,689
Of lead	234,981	373,260
Of tin plates.....	368,843	1,181,296
Of salt	173,923	272,267
Of wool	332,374	422,072
Of cotton manufactures	18,511,692	25,813,931
Of silk manufactures.....	917,822	1,594,553
Of linen manufactures	3,645,097	4,761,252
Of woollen manufactures.....	7,998,044	10,171,263

Turning from the merchandise to the shipping employed in its conveyance, we find the same astonishing and gratifying result.

In 1836 and 1853, the vessels inwards in the foreign trade of the kingdom represented 3,132,367 and 7,797,550 tons; and in the coasting trade, 10,337,545 and 12,820,745 tons.

And over and above all this—and crowning evidence of the wisdom and policy of free-trade—the returns of the revenue show that the receipts of Customs (notwithstanding the immense reductions and immense abolitions of duties which have taken place of late years) were actually greater in 1853 than in 1836 — the latter year having produced only £21,943,089, whereas last year the net receipts amounted to £22,419,308.

Facts and figures like these require neither note nor comment; but they ought to be proclaimed on every shore and stereotyped on every heart.

GATESHEAD POOR LAW BOARD.

UNION WORKHOUSE, TUESDAY, SEPT. 19. — Present:—Mr. Cornelius Garbutt (Chairman); Messrs. Hodgson, Smith, Brinton, Anderson, Makepeace, Thompson, Bagnall, Gallon, and W. Clark; and H. G. Liddell, Esq., M.P.

The minutes were read, and the usual returns were laid upon the table. The number of inmates of the workhouse during the past fortnight had been 339: corresponding fortnight of the past year, 309. The number of out-door paupers relieved in the fortnight had been 4,279, at a cost of £265 4s. 9½d.,; corresponding period last year, 3,967, at a cost of £260 18s. 6d.; showing an increase in number of 312, and in cost of £4 6s. 0½d.

The CLERK reported that the whole of the parishes had paid their arrears of call, with the exception of Whickham. Winlaton had paid £51 10s., which discharged the whole amount: Whickham had paid £52 towards £332, leaving a balance of £280. The treasurer's balance in favour of the union was £961 4s. 6d.; cheques issued this day, £616 12s. 8d.; leaving a balance of £344 11s. 10d.

Mr. HODGSON again drew attention to the position of Whickham; and moved that the Clerk be instructed to write to the churchwardens and overseers, stating that if the arrears were not discharged, the Board would be reluctantly compelled to take proceedings.—The motion was seconded by Mr. BRINTON, and adopted.

The subject of appointing inspectors of nuisances for the out-parishes led to much conversation. A letter from G. H. Ramsay, Esq., was read by the Clerk; in which that gentleman stated that, having observed the appointment made by the Heworth guardians of a sergeant of police as nuisance inspector, he had ascertained the feelings of his brother magistrates, who had no objection to the police generally being appointed. From what he had seen, he believed such inspection would be very beneficial; and he hoped all the parishes would bestir themselves in time. He enclosed a letter from Major White, chief constable, in which the latter stated that, as the law forbade a constable receiving salaries for other occupations, he would recommend that, whatever remuneration was given to them, should be in the shape of a gratuity.

The CHAIRMAN reported that two cases of cholera had occurred at Dunston, and one at Swalwell. One of the Dunston cases had proved fatal. The disease being now actually present among them, prompt action became necessary; and, indeed, the regulations were pretty peremptory, because given under act of

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parliament by the General Board of Health. He did not think relieving officers were proper parties to act as nuisance inspectors, because the Commissioners had directed that they should not hold any other parochial appointment whatever.

Mr. THOMPSON said it was the opinion of the Winlaton committee that Mr. Hall was a very fit and proper person, if he could hold the appointment.

Mr. MAKEPEACE begged to press the confirmation of Mr. Davison's appointment.

With a view of meeting the views of all parties, Mr. HODGSON moved and Mr. Ald. SMITH seconded a motion, to the effect that Mr. Hall be appointed for Winlaton; Mr. Ozwald for Whickham, Dunston, and Swalwell; and Mr. Davison for Heworth; that the Clerk write to the Commissioners stating under what circumstances the appointments were made—namely, on the recommendation of parishes themselves; that if the Commissioners made any objection as to the first two appointments, the Clerk should write to the parishes and request them to appoint the policemen. Mr. Hodgson said this resolution would prevent the parishes being kept without appointments.—Carried.

Mr. HODGSON afterwards moved that the medical officers of the union should be instructed to provide themselves with any extra assistance they might require in their respective districts in case of cholera occurring among the resident poor—the remuneration for such assistance to each officer not to exceed four guineas a week; that they report the appointments to the Clerk as soon as made; and that they be authorized to attend cases of emergency without any written order from the relieving officers.

Mr. GALLON seconded the motion.

Mr. MAKEPEACE moved as an amendment, that no such appointments be made by the medical officers without the sanction of the Guardians of the district, who as committees met daily and nightly. He appeared to think there was at present no ground for such a step as Mr. Hodgson's motion contemplated. If it were found that the medical men were not able to attend to the wants of their parishes, there would be time enough to let them have assistance. But he thought that the parties who really were able to pay for medical assistance had abused the provision made by the Guardians; and he wished the Guardians to guard against the ill-feeling which had been thus caused on former occasions. Of the 10,000 inhabitants of Heworth, he did not think there were 2,000 who had not a regular medical attendant to whom they would apply in case of need. Mr. M. also condemned the system of house-to-house visitation, as doing more harm than good, by the alarm it caused among the inhabitants. At Heworth people had become so terrified that they would not take their medicine.

Mr. HODGSON would admit the force of Mr. Makepeace's remarks as to the provision of medical assistance being abused, but thought it was impossible to draw a line.

Mr. Ald. SMITH said his experience enabled him to bear his testimony to the very great benefit of house-to-house visitation. He believed if it had not been for this, and increased medical assistance, Wrekenton would have been completely depopulated.

The CHAIRMAN urged the propriety of arresting the progress of the disease in time. He said the village of Dunston was in a very filthy state at the present moment. He reminded the Board that the Newcastle Guardians had already organized a staff of inspection, and he hoped that if the cholera should come amongst them, it would not find them unprepared. On a former occasion their preparations had been made in great haste, and thus much dissatisfaction had resulted.

Mr. MAKEPEACE was only anxious that the work should be done fairly and honestly. He thought a line could be drawn as to who were the parties really requiring medical assistance, and that they should not give unlimited powers to the doctors.

Mr. CLARK seconded Mr. Makepeace's amendment.

The conversation been concluded, the amendment was put to the vote, and lost:—the original motion was then carried.

Mr. HODGSON said the Clerk, in his letters to the medical officers, would make it distinctly understood that this was a precautionary measure, and not to be acted upon without due and proper cause for so doing.

A committee of the Board having been formed to examine the tenders for contracts to supply the workhouse, it was resolved, in accordance with their recommendation, that the tender of Mr. John Hopper, baker, be accepted for good seconds bread, at 6d. per 4lb. loaf: good maslin bread, at 5½d. per 4lb. loaf. Mr. W. R. Robertson, for best fine flour, at 42s. 6d. per sack of 20 stones; best Scotch oatmeal, at 41s. 6d. per sack; best pot barley, at 11s. 6d. per cwt.; best split peas, at 7s. 9d. per bushel. The contract for butcher meat was awarded to Mr. P. Smith; for groceries, to Mr. George Bell; clothing, to Mr. Jesse Dexter; clothing materials, Messrs. J. & W. Robson, drapers; hats and caps, Mr. John Hetherington; boots and shoes, Mr. William Wilson; coals, Mr. T. S. Robson, at 22s. 6d. per chaldron of 54 cwt.; printing, Mr. John Clark; supplying and leading Dundee stones, at 4s. 6d. per ton, Mr. John Eden. There was no tender for milk; but the contract will be offered to the last contractor (Mr. Tweddell) at the old prices.

An application was made by the uncle of a lad in the workhouse, named Patrick Noon, to take him out. It was stated by Mr. Ald. SMITH, that, during the tearful visitation of cholera at Wrekenton in 1849, he had found it necesary to break open the door of the house where the lad's parents resided, when he found them both lifeless; and he took up the lad, then some five or six years of age, and thus, in all probability, saved him from sharing their fate. He took him to the workhouse, and promised to put him to a trade as soon as he was old enough. That promise, the worthy Alderman said, he meant to fulfil. The boy was now about eleven years of age. The uncle, who was a Roman Catholic, has occasionally visited him in the workhouse; but the Guardians appeared generally to think that the boy would be much better cared for by remaining where he was, and awaiting the fulfilment of Mr. Smith's promise, than by going with his uncle, a married man, earning 14s. or 16s. per week, out of which he had to support himself, a wife, and three children. The uncle was in attendance upon the Board; and also the Rev. Mr. Kelly, Roman Catholic priest. Mr. Kelly said he believed the only reason for wishing to take the boy away was the fear of losing his religion.

On the motion of Mr. MAKEPEACE, seconded by Mr. BRINTON, it was resolved that the application of the uncle be not acceded to.

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Mr. KELLY and the uncle were called in and informed of this determination; and the CHAIRMAN also gave Mr. Kelly to understand that the Guardians were quite willing to give him all reasonable access to the boy for the purpose of teaching him his religion.

Mr. KELLY: Do the Guardians promise that they will not teach him the Protestant religion?

The CHAIRMAN said they would teach him no religion which the uncle prohibited: that was the law.

Mr. KELLY (to the uncle): Do you prohibit his being taught the Protestant religion?

The UNCLE: Yes.

Mr. Kelly and the uncle then withdrew.

The boy afterwards was brought into the board-room; when, in reply to some questions, he said he was very comfortable where he was, but would like to go to his uncle.

Some other business was transacted, and the Board proceeded to the relief of the poor.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.—The Building Committee met on October 20, at the Townhall, (Mr. Ald. Smith in the chair). The Chairman reported a number of new subscriptions which he and the Treasurer (Mr. Kimpster) had got since the previous meeting. It was also intimated that the Corporation of Newcastle, as owners of the Saltmeadows in Gateshead, had made the handsome donation to the building fund of 50 guineas. The subscriptions, not before announced are:—

Newcastle Corporation	£52	10	0	Dixon, Corbett, & Co.	1	1	0
Bishop of Durham	31	10	0	Joseph Dunn	1	1	0
Workmen of North Eastern Railway,	18	8	0	Thomas Gallon	1	1	0
W. Cookson & Co.	0	0	0	Temperley & Springmann	1	1	0
H. G. Liddell, M.P.	5	0	0	William Atkin	1	1	0
Miss Watson, Millfield House, Newcastle	5	0	0	R. S. Bagnall	1	0	0
George Pringle	2	10	0	Daniel Robson, jun.	0	10	6
Mrs. George Pringle	2	10	0	Frederick Welford.	0	10	6
C. J. Reid	2	2	0	A Friend	0	10	6
Samuel Kent	2	2	0	John Firbank	0	10	0
Misses Bewick	2	2	0	James Towle	0	10	0
Jas. Hewitt's Workmen	1	5	6	Thomas Atkinson	0	10	0
E. D. Welford	1	1	0	William Clark	0	10	0
				J. B. Makepeace	0	5	0
				Joseph Anderson	0	5	0

The Directors of the North Eastern Railway, while declining (in pursuance of rule) to subscribe to the building fund, have handsomely done what is, perhaps, much better for the institution—they have increased their annual subscription from £2 2s. to £5.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.—Messrs. Burnup & Co. have made a donation of £5 5s. to the building fund; and their workmen £5 5s. Mr. S. Finney has given £5; the St. John's Choir, Gateshead Fell, £5, (proceeds of a concert); the Gateshead police-force, £1 4s. 6d.; Mr. James Steven, Mr. George Stewart, and Mr. J. Burnup, 10s. 6d. each; and Mr. Hopper's workmen, 12s. Sunday morning, October 1, a collection in aid of the fund is to be made, we believe, in St. Mary's church, Gateshead—a thank-offering for the harvest.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.—William Peareth, Esq., late of Usworth House, Gateshead, has left a legacy of £500 to this charity:—a fact which the Secretary (William Kell, Esq.) was enabled to announce to the Committee on October 3, on the authority of a letter from the executors. John Eden, Esq., has made a donation of £25 to the building fund; and Charles Attwood, Esq., on behalf of the Weardale Iron Company, has given £10 10s.; Tyne Main Colliery, £10; Churchwardens of Gateshead (collection at St. Mary's church on thanksgiving day), £8; Assistants and Workmen of Messrs. Greene, £7 4s.; Miss Ludlow, £2; Mr. John Douglas, Gateshead Fell, £1.

GREAT CALAMITY

IN NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD.

WE have been visited by one of the most destructive and most appalling disasters on record. A fire, which broke out in Hillgate, Gateshead, on Friday morning, October 6th, shortly after 12 o'clock, was accompanied, shortly after 3, by an explosion, so loud and terrible, that not only all Gateshead and Newcastle shook and suffered from the shock, but even at North and South Shields, Tynemouth, Westoe, and Sunderland, the inhabitants were roused from their sleep, and supposed that a coal-pit blast or an earthquake was the cause. Our two towns were shivered. Everywhere, not only were window squares broken, but the framework smashed. Shutters were torn down. Plate-glass was destroyed—every square in Mr. Snowball's shop in Bottle-bank, Gateshead, and in Grey-street shops beyond the Tyne. The scattered masses of fire set the Quayside in flames simultaneously with the greater part of Hillgate; and the two towns were in conflagration in one and the same moment. The Tyne was lined on each side by a wall of flame. Our poor parish church of St. Mary is a shattered wreck; and—far worse—many of our neighbours, in Gateshead and Newcastle, were destroyed.

Last year, in September and October, as we all too well remember, we had the pestilence; and this year, in a locality where that pestilence much prevailed, we have a great and scourging flame; just as the "great fire" of London in 1666 followed the "great plague" of 1665.

We give a list (so far as we can) of the persons killed in Gateshead, all of whom perished in the immediate vicinity of the Hillgate fire, with the exception of the child Conway, who was killed by the fall of a roof in the *Observer* office yard.

Charles Bertram, Esq., J.P., West-street, Gateshead, (understood to be buried in the ruins).
William Davison, son of Mr. Davison, Gateshead Steam Flour Mill, (ditto).
Ensign Cranbourne Hastings Paynter, aged 19, of the 26th Cameronians, (son of a Magistrate at Hammersmith).
Lance-Corporal John Stephenson, 34, of the 26th.
Anthony Willis, skinner, about 60, in the service of Mr. Wilson.
Charles Hamilton, 50, hairdresser, Church-street.
Charles Duke, bricklayer, foreman to Mr. Edward Bruce.
Charles Duke, 12, his son, apprentice to ditto.
P.C. Scott, of the Gateshead police-force.
Robert Pattinson, Cumberland-row, Newcastle, 38, tanner, (a member of the Newcastle Council).
Frank Conway, 6, son of Daniel Conway, blacksmith, (living in the *Observer* office yard).
Two bodies, unidentified, lying at the Gateshead police-station.

We fear, too, that Mr. Henry Harrison, of Newcastle, son of our neighbour, Mr. Henry Harrison, basketmaker, is among the dead.

It was a painful sight to witness the friends of the fallen at the police-station, endeavouring to identify the black and charred remains as their beloved relatives.

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There are lying in the infirmary of Newcastle, injured :—

R. Dodds, 19, labourer, scalp wound and fracture of skull.
‡Name unknown, fissure of skull.
H. Keenan, 19, bruise of back, &c.
S. Dalymth, 56, miller, fracture of spine.
‡G. Sillon, 28, labourer, extensive scalp wound.
G. Gough, 33, labourer, fracture of arms and legs.
J. Humble, 38, painter, contusion of abdomen.
R. Hoggett, 19, wound of scalp, burns, concussion of brain.
M. M'Nalty, 28, labourer, burns, fractured ribs.
M. Doyle, 18, labourer, scalp wound, bruises.
C. Hutchinson, compound fracture of leg.
‡S. Dixon, 35, burns.
W. Lee, 18, blacksmith, concussion of brain, wound of scalp.
R. Lindsay, 24, blacksmith, compound fracture of leg.
‡R. Blair, soldier, scalp wounds.
T. Wilkinson, 19, soldier, burns and bruises.
‡W. Thompson, 82, fractured ribs, wound of face.
J. Wheatley, 35, skinner, fractured thigh, scalp wound, burns.
H. M'Guire, 38, labourer, fractured ribs.
S. Dodd, 10, compound fracture of skull and hand.
M. Dunn, 21, labourer, fissure of skull, wound of face.
W. Tintell, 28, labourer, scalp wound, bruises.
James Turnbull, 21, labourer, compound fracture of leg.
Andrew M'Cree, 40, scalp wounds.
M. Brown, 54, bruise of back.
Isaac Anderson, 40, fireman, laceration of loins.
‡R. Johnston, 32, fractured ribs.
H. Murtin, 38, soapmaker, fracture of thighs.
John Gibson, labourer, burn of eyes.
W. Miller, 18, glassmaker, compound fracture of right leg and fracture of left thigh.
Mary Carse, 21, contusion of abdomen.
R. M'Donald, 34, compound fracture of fibula.
Elizabeth M'Millan, 16 months, fracture of skull, bruises.
Ellen Short, 28, contusion of body, burns, wounds.
Bridget Coggins, 28, wounds and bruises.
James Nicholson, 7, compound fracture of skull.
A. Gibson, 20, wound of eyeball, scalp wound, burns.
Ellen Farney, 3, fractured skull, concussion of brain.
Catherine Phelan, 50, wounds.
‡Alice M'Lean, wounds.
‡Mary Simpson, 38, burns.
‡No name, compound fracture of arm and ribs, wound of lung.
‡Jacob Watson, compound fracture of skull.
‡J. Mather, fracture of both legs.
Patrick Figgins, bruises, scalp wound.
J. Edmondson, compound fracture.
J. Prior, 25, labourer, bruises.
J. White, 51, hatter, compound fracture of arm.
‡Ralph Little, police-inspector, fractured ribs, dislocation of ankle.
No name, fractured ribs, scalp wounds, (dead).
Mary Ward, 20, bruises.
‡Nicholas Maclaren, 45, inguinal hernia.
James Outridge, 17, burns.

☞ Those marked (‡) are of Newcastle: the others of Gateshead.

There are also about 30 soldiers wounded at the barracks.

Huge stones were cast from the point of explosion as if from a volcano. One of these fell through the roof of the Grey Horse inn, far up the High-street, at Oakwellgate-chare. Another, too heavy for a man to lift, fell on the premises of Councillor Woolston, a little below the chare. A third, nearly four feet long, a foot broad, and eight inches deep, weighing 3 cwt. 3 qrs. 10lb., fell at Mr. M. Young's, in Oakwellgate. In some places, iron bars were bent like pasteboard. The inner door of Miss Murray's hall in the Queen's Head was rent in twain, and all the windows of the establishment were broken. One of the maid-servants, looking from a window at the fire, heard the tremendous explosion, and, instantly, the darkened air was filled with a shower of stones and embers, and with sulphurous fumes. The fiery rain fell thick over the two towns; and, in a moment, the scene was changed from "a house on fire," to a conflagration of whole districts, divided by a river.

An old woman in Oakwellgate had her arm almost torn off by a stone that fell through the roof of her house. The limb was amputated in the infirmary, at the shoulder joint; and shortly afterwards she expired. Mr. Craster, the house surgeon of our Dispensary, dressed ten persons in Oakwellgate-chare, who had received deep wounds, principally on the head and face. Several were also dressed at the Dispensary. One elderly woman was almost dead from hæmorrhage, the blood vessels of the face being divided. A man, found near the churchyard, was carried up the street to the Dispensary, but died of internal hæmorrhage, arising from extensive injury of the lungs.

Our town and Newcastle have been visited during the day by strangers from all quarters, many of whom, having heard of the double conflagration, were naturally at a loss to account for so singular a state of things.

During the whole livelong day, the streets were a perpetual promenade for the people; and it was one of the most affecting spectacles of the time, to see so many poor persons continually passing through the throng, bearing with them the humble possessions saved from the wreck, and seeking places in which to lay their heads.

In Gateshead, besides the less serious damage to windows and property generally, we may say that all the town from the Church and Churchwalk to the river, lying east of Bridge-street, and comprising Hillgate, is more or less destroyed by fire and explosion. Mr. Davison's steam flour mill, facing into the street, is burnt; and at one time the fire spread over to the Island, and to Messrs. Mather & Reed's in Bottle-Sank, but was not extensively destructive.

In Newcastle, the Quayside from Spencer & Capper's to about Mr. Cail's, is prostrate, and back to Butcher-bank and the foot of Pilgrim-street.

Saturday morning, shortly after midnight, while all was gloom in Newcastle where the flames had raged, the Gateshead fire still burned brightly; and, the wind being from a northerly point of the compass, sparks were blown in the direction of St. Mary's church. A cry was raised that the church was on fire. And, from the roof, smoke was seen to rise, and then a reddening glow. The customary confusion of voices was heard, there being more captains than privates, and every one anxious that the right thing should be done. At length, to our surprise, the voice of our excellent friend Mather, whom we had supposed to be snugly sleeping in Shields after the toils of the day, was heard issuing from the church through the broken windows, and we felt confident that the edifice was safe. The pipe was handed to him; and, after a time, an axe, for which he cried, was found for him. In a very short time the danger (for the present moment at least,) had passed away.

There were engines kept playing on the property at the west end of Hillgate, and near the gutted mill, the safety of Bridge-street being perilled; and we trust that, with the willing activity of numerous

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public spirited men, the further progress of the flames may be prevented; more especially as, at about 2 o'clock, the powerful floating engines of the railway company and of the river commission were brought into play.

We are all much indebted to the kindness of neighbouring towns. The superintendents and policemen of our county, and of Newcastle, Tynemouth, South Shields, Sunderland, and Durham, have, indeed, been ready and effective in their aid.

Our Friday contemporaries promptly issued reports of the calamity, from which, before writing more, we give some passages, with occasional additions and revision.

(FROM THE NEWCASTLE CHRONICLE.)

About 20 minutes to one o'clock on Friday morning, a fire broke out in the worsted manufactory of Messrs. Wilson & Son, in Hillgate, Gateshead, which spread with inconceivable rapidity, and in less than half an hour was from top to bottom one immense sheet of fire.

The manufactory, it will be remembered, was burnt down just about three years ago, and has only been recently built in a most substantial manner; but the large quantity of oil which was upon the premises offered such food to the flames that no part of the stock could possibly be rescued.

The adjoining premises are of a most substantial character, having been built for a bonding store a few years ago. The contents were chiefly sulphur, and the intense heat soon caused that substance to melt. It then escaped in a burning state from the windows, and had a most remarkable effect, falling in brilliant cascades down the walls.

About two o'clock, Messrs. Wilson's manufactory was a total wreck, and the flames had nearly spent themselves on its contents. The firemen, accordingly, turned their attention to the stores; but, in spite of every exertion, they were wholly unable to stay the progress of the flames, which gradually spread over the whole premises. The warehouses were fully 80 feet in length by 20 in width, and six stories high; and about three o'clock, when the whole range was one body of fire, the sight was one of the most awfully magnificent which can well be imagined.

But we regret to say that far the worst remains to be told. It is unnecessary to say that such a fire naturally attracted the affrighted inhabitants of both towns to the banks of the river, and about twenty minutes past three a vast crowd was assembled. Suddenly a tremendous explosion—(such an explosion as we never heard before, and never wish to hear again)—proceeded from the burning mass, and ignited materials (bricks, stones, metal, and every article near,) were thrown into the air with tremendous force, only to fall again upon the dense masses of people all around. A prodigious quantity was thrown across the river, and scores of spectators upon the Quayside were thrown down and injured, many of them being rendered insensible. The mass of burning embers set fire to the ships, and, crossing over the quay, entered the houses opposite, and, in a moment, the shops of Messrs. Spencer & Sons, Messrs. Smith & Ormston, and Messrs. Smith & Co. were in a blaze. The uninjured bystanders rushed off in all directions in search of safety; several endeavoured to assist their more unfortunate neighbours; but as no one was left to endeavour to stop the flames; of course the new conflagration raged with frightful vehemence, and the shops abovementioned, the offices above them, the public houses of Mr. Teasdale and Mr. Batey, and many private dwellings, were consumed in, comparatively speaking, a few minutes. At the same time, the workshops of Mr. Edgar, at the head of the George's-stairs, in Pilgrim-street, ignited by the same cause, were blazing with fearful rapidity, and, being situated in one of the densest parts of the town, seemed to threaten wide-spread destruction.

Scarcely a house in the middle and lower part of Newcastle has escaped from damage by this catastrophe. On the Sandhill nine out of every ten shop fronts and house windows were completely blown out. In Dean-street, Mosley-street, and their neighbourhoods, the same effects are observable, and many of the old houses on the Quay are left little better than wrecks.

We have yet spoken of the effect of this dreadful calamity only on this side of the river, but it may naturally be supposed that in Gateshead the disasters were still more serious. The dense crowd of spectators were borne down by the falling ruins, almost in a body; and it is impossible yet to say how many have been fatally injured. The old houses in Hillgate were left one mass of ruins. Several of them took fire together; and, being already heated by the flames, they fell a ready prey to the destructive element. Many hundred families have lost furniture, clothes, and, in fact, their all; and we fear many will have to mourn the loss of husbands, wives, or children, buried in the ruins. In later editions we shall give fuller particulars than it is now possible to collect.

To what extent personal injuries have been received in this manner, it will be, for some time, impossible to say.

When this edition goes to press, the mass of property between the top and bottom of the George's-stairs is one entire burning ruin. The Quayside fire has not yet been got under, and is spreading up the narrow lanes to the Butcher-bank, where it will join the other conflagration. Messrs. Singers's vinegar manufactory, and several properties in Hillgate, are also totally consumed; and the fire is far from being got under in that neighbourhood.

The infirmary is choked with wounded men, women, and children, brought out of the various ruins; and we lament to hear that the loss of life will be considerable.

6 A.M.—The frontage of the Quayside, for more than fifty yards from the Grinding-chare, is entirely levelled, and a clear view presented of the rifled and ruined lanes and chares between the Quay and the Butcher-bank. In these the fire is still burning with violence, and the others only smouldering. Parts of the framework of houses are still standing amongst the smoke; but, as a whole, the buildings have fallen into a shapeless mass of smoking *debris*. The house next to Mr. Snowdon's bonded store is entirely in the power of the flames, and must soon fall. An interval of two houses then occurs, in which there is little fire; and as their walls and interior have been well wet, it is barely possible that they may yet escape. The fire has, however, got hold of the next house, occupied by Mr. Morrison, sailmaker, and others, and indicates that behind it the ravages of the devouring element are in progress. As a last resort to check its progress down the quay, an attempt is being made to pull down a house a few doors above the Custom House, in order to make a clear space which the fire

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may not be able to overleap. A strong cable, passed round the upper part of a house, has been affixed to a steamer, which is endeavouring to pull it down. At the upper end of the Quay, the railway fire engine has been brought into operation, and may probably prevent the fire extending in that direction.

In the Butcher-bank the fire has been slightly got under, and by maintaining the chief supporting posts of Mr. Piper's shop, the framework of the house has been prevented from falling. Many houses are, however, completely gutted.

The third house from the foot of Pilgrim-street has fallen down, entirely destroyed. The water from a hose-pipe has prevented the flames from extending further on either side of the street frontage, but the mass of buildings between the George-stairs and the Butcher-bank is still burning furiously. A pipe, apparently with a good supply of water, has been got down the stairs, and may have some effect in arresting or limiting the work of destruction.

10 A.M.—The sight at the Gateshead station is most horrifying. Ten bodies were stretched on the floor; one in the attitute of shielding his face with his arms; another with his hands at his heart. One body was a mere calcined mass, and the leg of another was burnt off. The sight presented by one poor woman was truly heartrending. She had lost four children in the *debris* at Hillgate.

On the Newcastle side the fire still rages. The property in this locality is now nearly all in ruins. The provision shop of Mrs. Shiell, with a row facing All Saints' church, including Mrs. M'Kie's premises, are totally destroyed. Within the sacred edifice the destruction is most complete. The beautiful stained glass windows on each side of the pulpit representing the arms of the Corporation and Trinity House, are irreparably demolished.

The reverberation was felt so strongly in Shields that many of the inhabitants rushed out of their beds, under the belief that the shock had arisen from an earthquake. Several bricks were dislodged from Messrs. Swinburne's glass-house chimneys, and the workmen ran out in the greatest fright and excitement. The gaslights in the Jarrow paper mill were blown out, and at the Pontop drops. About 4 o'clock a telegraphic message was sent down for the engines. By 5 o'clock the powerful river engine was sent away in tow of a steamer; and by 7 o'clock, the alarm having rushed through the town, crowds of people rushed to the railway station to see after their friends. The trains were crowded. The explosion was also felt at Sunderland, and the sulphur and other materials cast up by the explosion were scattered three or four miles down the Gateshead line.

The workmen of Monkwearmouth colliery, the deepest in the kingdom, and at least eleven miles from Newcastle, heard the explosion, and came up the shaft in alarm. The explosion was felt ten miles out at sea.

2 P.M.—On the memorable morning of the 6th of October, on the two sides of Tyne Bridge three fires were simultaneously raging, each of them of a magnitude far transcending anything of the kind that has ever, perhaps, occurred in this town before, and at least one of them involving a destruction of property that probably exceeds any that has for many years been caused in any city or town of this country. As detailed above, the first fire, and the producer of the others, occurred on the river edge at Gateshead, and extended 200 yards, destroying in its conrse large and well-stocked warehouses. Iu Newcastle the greater of the two fires has burned down a mass of closely packed buildings of at least a hundred yards square, lying between the Quay and the Butcher-bank, and between Grindon-chare and the Custom House. The other, has rifled another set of buildings of a similar character, but of less extent, in a space enclosed by a triangle, the sides of which are represented by Pilgrim-street, Butcher-bank, and George's-stairs.

Taken together, the fires, falling as they have chiefly upon the busiest part of the town, have inflicted an amount of loss that it will require, at the most moderate calculation, at least £1,000,000 to repair. We are afraid to approach the as yet undecided question of the extent of the loss of life, but already we fear that the deaths discovered amount to nearly a score, while the amount of serious bodily injury that has been caused is almost incalculable. Under the still flaming ruins of the Gateshead warehouses, it is possible there are very many poor fellows lying as blackened corpses.

In the lower part of Gateshead it is almost impossible to make way through the streets, so overpowering is the vapour of burning sulphur; and this effectually prevents, for the present, any attempt to ransack them, or even to approach them, with the object of preventing the fire from spreading; so that the most dreadful suspense, as well as considerable danger, must continue to exist for some time, unless some plan can be hit upon to neutralize the effects of the fumes with which the air is impregnated.

No death has, so far as we are aware, resulted directly from the fire, the entire of the fearful list of mortality being attributable to the tremendous explosion in Mr. Bertram's bond warehouse. In this country the only parallels to this explosion are to be looked for in the depths of the most fiery of our coal pits; and even there, we doubt if we can point to an occurrence so extremely disastrous as this has been. It now appears more than probable that future investigation will elicit the fact that it is to *gunpowder* rather than to any fortuitous generation of gases from sulphur and nitrates, that the great calamity is due; but in the meantime nothing positive is known. Of course, a few days will bring the truth to light.

At present the fire on the Quayside, where alone it may now be considered immediately dangerous, is in great measure circumscribed, and will in all probability be prevented from extending. We may mention that by four o'clock in the morning we observed on the Quayside, C. E. Ellison, Esq., stipendiary magestrate; and shortly afterwards the Mayor and others were actively engaged in superintending and directing. In the course of the morning R. P. Philipson, Robert Plummer, and W. Woods, Esqrs., and other influential gentlemen were on the spot. (Mr. Woods, at the time of the explosion, was in a room in Hillgate, and was imprisoned by the fall of a floor. Happily, it fell at one end only, and he was simply made prisoner for a time, escaping with a slight wound.)

FRIDAY EVENING.—It may be said that every house on both sides of Hillgate, together with those thickly studded on the Church-walk, Bridge-street, Church-street, and Cannon-strret, as well as many others beyond them, have been shattered and damaged to a most serious extent. Some are totally destroyed;

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others are unroofed, or the gable ends of fronts driven violently in; while the great majority have their windows demolished, together with framework and sashes blown to atoms. Among such as had suffered most were the flour mill; also, the property of Mr. M. Dunn adjoining, and several houses adjacent; the Cock public-house; Mr. Monkhouse's public-house; the shop and house of Mr. Burden, marine store dealer; the Goat inn, besides several other shops and houses close by. That, however, which produced the most appalling effects was the bond lofts, situated between the worsted mill and the sugar manufactory. The large building, it is alleged by some, was occupied principally with sulphur, naphtha, nitrate of potash, and other goods; while others assert that it contained several tons of gunpowder; but as this matter will be made the subject of a searching inquiry by the authorities, we leave it without comment. To give some idea of the catastrophe here, the entire of Hillgate at this locality is totally impassable through a heap of ruins upwards of twelve feet deep and several in extent; while that which is by far the most painful circumstance is, that several parties missing are supposed to be under them; and, although every exertions are being used to reach them, yet, up to ths period of going to press, every attempt to obtain their bodies has proved fruitless. So terrific was the force of the concussion, that a great number of persons were violently dashed to the ground.

After the first effects of the shock were partially overcome, and as the smoke and dust cleared away (which, at the first, shrouded the appalled multitude in total darkness), one of the most heart-rending and harrowing spectacles met the view of those who had been so fortunate as to escape unhurt, as the ground around them was literally strewed with human beings, some dead, others in a dying state, but by far the greatest number were lying wounded and in a most helpless condition. In the emergency, efforts the most heroic and praiseworthy were made to remove the sufferers, and many of the inhabitants did so at the imminent peril of their lives. This, however, formed only part of the dread tragedy; as, while numbers fell victims from without, a far greater number of persons, both male and female, within their houses, were violently thrown out of their beds, cut, injured, and maimed, while some, bruised, were covered in the ruins of their respective dwellings. In some instances, where staircases were blown down, the parties were rescued by being brought out of the windows.

The faint voice of a woman was heard, after the explosion, to issue from the ruins; and in a moment all was still as death.

The explosion ruptured the water-pipe and buried the hose, thus hindering the efforts to extinguish the fire.

One of the sternest and most prominent objects connected with the disaster was the ancient church of St. Mary. The sacred edifice bore all the tokens of a fierce assault. The large and beautiful dial of glass, and which at night was lighted up with gas, was shivered. Then, as to the churchyard itself, that bore forcible tokens that almost persuadsd any one that the repose of the dead had even been broken, as headstones and other similar relics lay broken and scattered on every side.

The *coups d'œil* continually presented during the night were of the most appalling description. The immense sheets of flame rising on both sides of the water at the same time, frequently to a height of two three stories, cast a glare of red light over the scene, and reduced the bright full-moon to an appearance little more brilliant than that of a dim gas-lamp. The crowds of bewildered spectators were rushing hither and thither completely overcome by the immensity of the calamity, and by the sense of their own impotence to do anything to stay the flames. Anxious householders were at many places endeavouring to save their chattels by removing them from the neighbourhood of the fire, and women and children were weeping at almost every corner. At Gateshead, in Hillgate especially, the scenes were more lamentable and affecting still. Women almost in hysterics were alleging that they heard the groans of men buried in the ruins, and unable to extricate themselves; and, indeed, we were sickened by the sight of a poor female almost covered over by stones and bricks, and wood and lime, her head lying beneath a large plank, while a number of men, under the impression that she was alive, were ineffectually attempting to get her out. Policemen, workmen, and others, were in many places standing vomiting under the effects of the sulphurous fnmes amongst which they had been working. The immediate scenes of the fires, the streets in the neighbourhood, the Tyne Bridge, and the High Level, were thronged by the inhabitants of both towns.

(FROM THE NEWCASTLE COURANT, OCT. 6.)

We are called upon to record one of the most fearful calamities which has occurred in Newcastle, or indeed in this country, for many years. At the moment of writing, it is impossible to form any accurate idea of the loss of life, or of the immense destruction of property which has resulted; nor is it possible to approach a description of the awful occurrence with such self-possession as to employ anything like sober language in attempting to give the reader an idea of the catastrophe which has befallen the town.

About a quarter-past three o'clock, almost every inhabitant of the town, and for a considerable distance in the outskirts, was aroused by a terrible shock, which shook the buildings to their very foundation, and left people in breathless excitement. Within a radius of a very considerable distance from the explosion, there is scarcely a house which has not suffered by the destruction of roofing, windows, window-shutters, or the consequent loss of other property. Such a wreck as many of the streets of the town at this moment present, can be compared only to the aspect which it might be expected to assume after a bombardment.

It appears that, between twelve and one o'clock this morning, a fire broke out in the worsted manufactory of Mr. James Wilson, on the north side of Hillgate, in Gateshead, and not far distant from the west end of that street. In spite of every effort to stay its progress, the fire spread with fearful rapidity. It raged for nearly three hours upon these premises, extending towards premises in Hillgate, in which were stores of nitre, sulphur, and naphtha. These premises, we believe, form a bonded warehouse, generally known as Bertram's warehouse, but really belonging to Mr. Sisson. About a quarter-past three, this store of combustibles exploded with a terrible noise, resulting in an immediate loss of life and instantaneous destruction of property, not only in the immediate vicinity, but, as already intimated,

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within a circle of considerable extent. Portions of the building were immediately scattered far and wide; and one simple fact may indicate to readers acquainted with the locality the probable extent of damage. A large piece of timber, about ten feet long and eight inches square, was thrown upon the roof of the Ridley Arms inn, Pilgrim-street.

In the premises in which we write, in the same street, a piece of stone was dashed with such violence as actually to penetrate the wall of the engine-house.

But the saddest result of the event, of course, is the loss of life which instantaneously ensued.

This, of course, cannot yet be ascertained. There appears to be no doubt that at least one officer and two privates of the 26th regiment (on duty at the fire), together with a labouring man, were killed on the spot.

The scene presented, in Hillgate and the neighbourhood, as soon as the inhabitants recovered from the alarm and begun to ascertain what additional catastrophe had happened, was of the most heart-rending description. An ominous and breathless calm for a moment succeeded the fearful explosion. Then were heard the shrieks and cries of women and children; and persons of both sexes and all ages, many of whom had not been disturbed merely by the fire, ran into the streets — they knew not why or whither. Wounded persons were soon being carried out upon shutters and conveyed to the infirmary; children, enveloped in their night clothes, were crying for their parents; and all hearts trembled with an ill-defined apprehensive fear that the worst had not befallen them.

Numbers of policemen on beat were injured by the falling *debris;* and the surgery of Mr. Rayne, Westgate-street, surgeon to the Newcastle force, was literally besieged by the sufferers, who resorted or were conveyed thither to avail themselves of his assistance and skill.

Every pane of glass in All Saints' church was destroyed; and the yard was filled with furniture belonging to the poor persons who resided in the immediate neighbourhood.

The *Courant* printing office has suffered considerable damage, by the destruction of panes of glass, nearly one-third of a large window having been completely destroyed. In the *Chronicle* office, although none of the outside windows were destroyed, a large stained glass window within the premises was completely damaged. The office of the *Gateshead Observer* has suffered perhaps most seriously in this respect.

A large block of wood, about six feet long, was hurled upon the top of All Saints' church; and large flakes of sulphur are lying upon the steps of the church.

Most of the windows in the Royal Arcade, including those of the Postoffice, have been broken.

The fire appears to have communicated to this side of the river by masses of burning material having been thrown upon the premises of Messrs. Ormston & Smith, at the Quayside, whence it spread with great rapidity.

Two houses, opposite All Saints' church, have been burnt down.

Another Account.—The Mayor of Gateshead (David Haggie, Esq.), with other leading men in the borough, were at the fire in Hillgate from about twelve o'clock (midnight), busily occupied in endeavouring to subdue the flames, and little dreaming of the greater danger near at hand. Suddenly, a little after three o'clock, there was a tremendous explosion from the adjacent bonded warehouse of Mr. Sisson, (better known, perhaps, from the name of a former occupier, as Mr. Bertram's). This building was stored with sulphur, saltpetre, naphtha, and (we have heard) gunpowder—common rumour reporting the quantity of the latter explosive material to have been seven tons. The two towns (for Newcastle was instantaneously involved in the calamity) were more or less reduced, over a large area, to a wreck. In the immediate vicinity of the explosion, there were three fire men, two private soldiers, and (we hear) one officer, all killed on the spot; and it is painful to speculate on the number of persons that must have perished, and be perishing, among the ruins. The sulphurous fumes fatally interfered with all endeavours to save human life. Destructive to the dying, they also rendered it all but impracticable in others to go to their assistance, so suffocating was the smoke. Charles Bertram, Esq., J.P., who had been actively aiding in the suppression of the fire, is, we are afraid, a severe sufferer:—we know not, while we write, to what extent — we trust not dangerously. We have also heard fears expressed for the safety of other gentlemen, who were seen at the fire, and were afterwards missing. One of the Gateshead Councillors, residing in High-street, found in his yard a stone which he could not lift, but which had been projected by the explosion to his door. Having property on the Hillgate Banks, he had gone to the fire about midnight, and was in one of his houses when the explosion occurred. His face, when we met him on the Churchwalk, was cut and bleeding. The church was a wreck—it windows broken, and the roof destroyed. The illuminated clock was a ruin; but it was possible to tell by the pointers that the explosion had occurred at ten minutes past three o'clock. Everywhere the sound of wailing was heard. Men were in tears. Passing through the *Observer* office yard, we heard a woman lamenting bitterly the case of her child, on whom the roof had fallen as it lay in bed. In Bridge-street, a man was being carried on a board, almost lifeless, to the infirmary. The streets were covered with furniture—beds, bedding, all descriptions of household gear. The miserable owners were near their property, and anxiously inquiring after missing friends and relatives. Returning to our office by way of the Sandhill, a soldier disputed the passage across; and it was not until we apprised him that our profession, like his own, forbade all considerations of personal danger, that he would consent to our progress. Life, he said, was in peril from the materials thrown from the buildings around. We were taking George's-stairs as our nearest route, when we were once more arrested:—this time by a policeman, who said the stairs were impassable, owing to fallen walls. We were obliged, in consequence, to make our way through the crowds, and the obstructing heaps of furniture, in the Side and Dean-street.

Scene from the High Level Bridge.—A commanding view of the conflagration was obtained from the High Level Bridge, connecting Newcastle and Gateshead. Immediately below was old Tyne Bridge, crowded with spectators; and beyond, the glowing fire, on both sides the river—the glare reflecting from the rolling tide, nearly at its highest. On the Gateshead side, where

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the buildings stand (or, we should say, stood) on the very verge of the quay wall, the burning ruins were shelving into the stream. The fire and destruction engaged all that part of Gateshead, to a considerable distance eastward, lying behind Bridge-street and Church-street, and between the river and Churchwalk, comprising property on both sides of Hillgate, the centre of this great calamity. On the Newcastle side of the Tyne, where the houses, shops, offices, &c., lie 70 or 80 feet back from the river, the point at which the fire struck was (if we have been rightly informed), the shop of Messrs. Ormston & Smith, printers. The fire extended from this point, (or, otherwise to describe it, from about Grindon-chare, where the Blue Bell public-house was recently burnt down,) far eastward, and was rapidly extending as we gazed at the awful spectacle. Back it raged to the Butcher-bank and the lower end of Pilgrim-street, near the church of All Saints'. Every now and then, the ear was appalled by an explosion, as the fire reached gunpowder, or kindred substances; and thus the flames were fed and the conflagration extended. The mind was enabled to conceive a town bombarded, and to realise, in some measure, the horrors of war.

It was impossible not to be reminded, while looking at the spectacle, of the remarks made before the Cholera Commissioners in the present year, as to the portions of the property involved in the flames—namely, that it was beyond amendment, and should be bombarded.

Further Particulars. — At 4 o'clock, the fire was raging with terrific power from Messrs. Teasdale's publichouse on the Quay, up Grinding-chare, embracing, in its course, almost the entire range of buildings below Peppercorn-chair, at which period the entire were enveloped in one sheet of fire. The Old Grey Horse being a building much higher than its neighbours, it towered aloft in one burning pile for some time, when the roof fell in with a tremendous crash. Part of the Butcher-bank and some buildings in the George's-stairs at the time were in a blaze, where the fire threatened to extend itself to the higher portion of the town leading into Pilgrim-street; but the wind, which was blowing from the S.W., so far influenced the direction of the flames as to drive them within the burning piles of flames, then spreading rapidly down the entrance to the Quay, which, at six o'clock, was threatened with entire destruction. As house after house ignited, crash after crash was heard, resounding around the ruins of property already laid waste and gutted, as gable and walls, stacks of chimneys, and other materials found their way to the ground, burying for a while the smouldering relics beneath, which, after a short struggle, burst forth again in large volumes of fire. On the opposite side of the river, nearly from the bottom of Hillgate up to Tyne Bridge, were observed heaps of burning timbers massed together, denoting the great devastation that had already taken place; and, as to the property immediately behind and extending from Hillgate to Churchwalk, Oakwellgate, Bottle-bank, and High-street, the entire property was more or less shattered and in ruins. Hillgate especially, together with the Churchwalk and St. Mary's church, with several houses around, present such a fearful wreck of property as was never beheld. But, more fearful than all, the destruction of life cannot at the present period be estimated. An officer and a private of the 26th Infantry, as well as a man, are lying dead and dreadfully mangled in the police station; while numbers of wounded are being carried to the infirmary. In addition, it is said that several of the inmates residing in the houses belonging Hillgate and the bankside in the Churchwalk, are buried in the ruins, some of whom, it is ascertained, are still alive, but could not be recovered from the effects of smoke, and the overpowering stench of sulphur around. As the day dawned, the town was literally strewed, almost every street having had fragments of ruins hurled down upon it by the explosion; and as to the wretchedness and lamentations of families, who had either lost friends or property, these may be more readily imagined than described. The churchyards, and every available refuge for the protection of household property, are occupied on every side. From what we could gather, the first premises set on fire in Newcastle were those occupied by Messrs. Spencer & Capper, drapers, Quayside; and it extended downwards to Fenwick's-entry, a distance of more than one hundred yards, destroying completely most of the premises in its progress, many of the buildings falling to the ground, whilst others are completely gutted. It extended up Grindon and the adjacent chares to the George-stairs, foot of Pilgrim-street, where its progress was stayed from proceeding further in that direction. Many of the back premises were occupied by poor people. Nine persons are now lying dead at the Gateshead police station, while other three have been sent to their respective dwellings. Others are missing; and, as to the wounded, no one can enumerate them at present.

Friday, Afternoon.—Proceeding from our office down Pilgrim-street, Mosley-street, and the Sandhill to the Quayside, the ear is assailed with the constant hammer of the professional or amateur glazier, busily at work, which rises above the incessant buzz of the anxious crowd. Carts are passing and repassing, conveying goods which have been rescued from the flames. On approaching the Sandhill, the aspect of the Guildhall is precisely what might have been anticipated if a mob of election rioters had taken upon themselves to demolish it.

Leaving this building, the passenger, on getting upon the Quay, finds it guarded from the intrusion of the curious crowd by a line of policemen, and also by a troop of the First Dragoon Guards. If he succeed in passing these barriers, he beholds a melancholy heap of ruins. Some troops of the 26th Cameronians with bayonet mounted muskets are on duty; and Mr. Dunne, the active superintendent of police, is observed at a distance, directing the play of an engine upon the smouldering ruins of some skeleton building. Occasionally the passenger recognizes beneath a dust-besmeared anxious countenance and bespoiled garments the well-known visage of some friend, some merchant of the quay, or some gentleman of high official or social standing in the town. Across the water are observed the still flaming ruins of the premises in which the conflagration commenced.

The following is as accurate a list as it was possible to obtain of the firms and individuals whose premises have been burnt down or completely gutted. It will be seen that they are twenty in number:—

Messrs. Spencer & Capper, woollen drapers, and fitting offices above and behind.
Mr. Teasdale, Dun Cow inn, and backwards towards Butcher-bank.
Mr. Harbottle, draper, and offices above.
Grinding-chare, and backward to Butcher-bank.
Messrs. Smith & Ormston, stationers and booksellers.

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Mr. Wilson, fruiterer.
Messrs. Smith & Co., woollen drapers.
Blue Anchor-chare, and backward to Butcher-bank.
Mr. Fairweather, watchmaker.
Grey Horse public-house.
Peppercorn-chare, Prussian Eagle, and backward to Butcher-bank.
Mr. Atkin, stationer and bookseller.
Mr. Naylor, hairdresser.
Pallister's-chare, and backward to Butcher-bank.
Mr. Snowdon, grocer and ship chandler.
Mr. Davison, Sun inn.
Hornsby's-chare, and backward to Butcher-bank.
Mr. Thompson, ship chandler, &c.
Mr. Brown, butcher.
Colvin's-chare, and backward to Butcher-bank.
Mr. Reed, chemist and druggist.
Mr. Swallow, Rising Sun public-house.
Mr. Hay, bread and biscuit baker.
Plummer-chare.
Mr. Bailey, watchmaker.
Messrs. Featherston & Elder, ship chandlers.
Mr. Mowbray, hardwareman.
Fenwick's-entry.

A number of persons are missing, including some firemen.

Mr. Davison, of the Sun inn, (whose premises are completely destroyed,) with his wife and servants, were looking out of the windows at the fire in Gateshead, when it reached the warehouse, and the explosion took place shortly after, unroofing their house, knocking in the whole of the doors, the sash of one of the windows hitting Mrs. D. and cutting her face. Part of the burning embers also fell on the Sun inn.

The body of a gentleman was found in a ship's hold during the forenoon, supposed to have been blown there by the explosion.

Amongst the persons killed on this side of the river, was an old man living in the Side, who was killed by the falling in of the roof.

The custom-house was unroofed, all the windows broken, and the doors unhinged.

PUBLIC MEETING IN GATESHEAD.

In the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 6, at 2 o'clock, a meeting of the Council, convened by the Mayor, was held at the Townhall, and declared to be public.

There were present:—The Mayor and Rector; John Barras, James Pollock, and Ralph Wake, Esqrs., Borough Magistrates; Aldermen Hawks (J.P.), Lister, and Pearson; Councillors Garbutt (Chairman of the Board of Guardians), Hymers, Gray, Hewitt, Ionn, Hodgson, Allhusen, Prockter, Cook, and Vickers; Rev. Messrs. Bennett and Herbert; and Messrs. W. Robinson, G. B. Reed, J. W. Swinburne, John Sowerby, John Greene, T. Welford, Cameron, W. Hall, James Guthrie, John Pattinson, and W. H. Schorey.

The Mayor said there was no need to apologize for calling the Council and the public together. He had conceived that there was an urgent desire for measures to provide for the relief of those who were houseless and in want. The gentlemen who, like himself, had been on and about the Churchwalk from one o'clock that morning, would know how necessary it was that something should be done. It was enough to make the strongest heart to bleed to see the poor people who were deprived of their homes; and he was glad to see many members of the Board of Guardians present, prepared to do whatever was in their power.

Mr. Ald. Hawks inquired if those who were unhoused were chiefly of the poorer classes? He simply asked that the facts might be brought out.

The Mayor replied in the affirmative. Some poor families had lost their little all. He had thrown open the saw-mill belonging to himself and brother, where several families would be temporarily accommodated.

Mr. Hodgson inquired if the cause of the explosion had been ascertained?

Mr. Hawks believed not, but the Coroner would investigate the matter to the bottom.

Mr. Cook said, there was a general impression that the warehouse contained gunpowder, contrary to law. There must, indeed, be a thorough sifting of the facts, for the satisfaction of the public mind.

The Mayor said, he had been informed of a note written by Mr. Sisson, stating that "there was no gunpowder in Bertram's warehouses, Hillgate." He could also add, that Mr. Bertram, who was near him repeatedly during the fire, and who, he believed, had some interest in the warehouses, never alluded to any gunpowder being in the place.

Mr. A. G. Gray moved the appointment of a joint-committee of Councillors and Guardians to take the necessary steps.

Mr. Garbutt said, the Guardians had already met, and done all that, he thought, was necessary for the moment. The workhouse was to be thrown open as an asylum, and the relieving officer had instructions to attend to the wants of the sufferers. The Guardians could not, legally, delegate their powers to others; they must act separately in administering the poor-rate; and he thought the Council might rest assured everything necessary would be done for immediate relief. But, so far as joining in promotion of a public subscription to effect what the Guardians could not undertake—such as, for instance, the purchase of furniture, &c., to reëstablish the houseless in independent homes—they would be glad individually to cooperate.

It was resolved, in the end, on the motion of Mr. Hodgson, that a public meeting be held on Tuesday, at one o'clock, to set on foot a subscription; and that a provisional committee be appointed to make the requisite preliminary arrangements. The committee to consist of the Mayor; Aldermen Hawks, Pearson, and Lister; and Councillors Allhusen, Skelton, Hewitt, and Ionn.

The Coroner (J. M. Favell, Esq.) here entered the room breathless. The fire, he said, was making head again in Hillgate. Mr. Davison's steam flour mill was blazing. Every house in the neighbourhood was in danger of destruction, and, if prompt measures were not adopted, would be gone in a couple of hours. In Newcastle, he believed, all danger was past; and the Shields (floating) and other engines would be at liberty for Gateshead.

All was now hot haste.

On the motion of Mr. Hodgson, seconded by Mr. Gray and Mr. Hawks, it was resolved to send a telegraphic message to the Secretary of State, requesting him to send some one down to be present at the inquiry.

Mr. Allhusen stated, on chemical authority, that if there were any close cellars on the premises where the explosion occurred, and they got filled with the fumes of sulphur, there might be a second explosion. Some precautions should therefore be adopted. He thought, too, they should ascertain from the occupier,

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precisely, what the warehouse contained before the fire. Would the Coroner object to that?

The CORONER: Not at all. It will assist the inquiry. I may add that a scientific gentleman has assured me the explosion might occur without the presence of gunpowder — that the other supposed substances would be sufficient.

The meeting then adjourned for a couple of hours.

At the adjourned meeting Captain Cooke, Captain Ducane, and Lieutenant Whitmore, of the Sappers and Miners, were present. The business transacted chiefly had reference to the protection of property during the night, pickpockets and plunderers having been caught at their knavish vocation. A letter was read from Colonel Whittingham, suggesting an application to Sunderland for two companies, that the soldiers now on the Tyne might have rest, and be ready for duty next day; and the suggestion was attended to, a telegraphic message being ordered. Mr. Pollock (who was in the chair) stated that special constables had been sworn in. It was intimated that the fire was subdued, but would require continual watching. It is remarkable that a conflagration which threatened, in the morning, to continue for days and lay waste the greater part of the town, was, comparatively, so soon suppressed. But everybody cheerfully assisted, from the Chief Magistrates to the humblest inhabitants. Mr. Dunne and Mr. Schorey, with their forces, were nobly active; the military behaved as they always do, and poor Ensign Paynter, who had but recently joined the regiment, and Corporal Stephenson, perished in the discharge of their duty. In Hillgate, making our way where road there was none, we encountered Mr. James Mather, of South Shields, well sustaining his fame for humanity, in gallant efforts to overmaster the fire.)

THE GATESHEAD TOWN-COUNCIL.

MAYOR.	†Brinton, George	†Hymers, J. A.
†Haggie, David	†Cook, William	†Lonn, F. P.
ALDERMEN.	Crawshay, E.	†Patterson, G.
†Hawks, George	Garbutt, C.	†Proekter, J. B.
†Lister, John	†Gray, Alex. Geo.	†Skelton, John
†Pearson, C. J.	Haggie, Peter	†Vickers, John
†Robson, Joseph	†Hewitt, James	†Wilson, James
Smith, James	†Hodgson, R. W.	†Woolston, John
COUNCILLORS	Hunter, George	
Allhusen, Chris.		

☞ Those marked (†) were present.

AN adjourned meeting was held on October 4, at which one or two ratepayers availed themselves of their privilege to be present.

Mr. Ald. ROBSON presented a report from the Public Health Committee, comprising a report from the Surveyor. Mr. Hall recommended the sanction of the Board to be given to certain plans of new houses. As to the memorial from Victoria-street, he said the proposed areas would be a great improvement of the cellar-dwellings in that locality, now unfit for human habitation, but would trench too largely on the width of the street, and he suggested a modification. With respect to the paving and flagging of Melbourne, Grosvenor, and Victoria streets, by a private improvement rate, he estimated that the cost would be £313, £175, and £192. He added that, during the autumn, various parts of the town had been washed by hose and jet; and many localities had been lime-washed. The plan recently adopted for removing refuse from ashpits, &c., although not yet in perfect operation, had worked well, 2,500 loads having been taken away during the first four months. The report of the Committee recommended that the three streets abovenamed be paved and flagged—notice being first served on the owners and occupiers; and if they failed to do the work, it be then executed by the Board as a private improvement. Also that, in some districts there be a periodical lime-washing. On the subject of Victoria-street, the Committee considered that the application of the memorialists would best be met by the intended levelling, paving, and flagging. In compliance with another memorial, they recommended that steps be taken for lighting Pipewellgate Banks, Quarryfield, and Hall-terrace. The report, after disposing of other matters, referred to a complaint which had been made against Mr. Prockter's glue manufactory, and said the place had been visited, when the manufactory was found to be free from noxious smells, but in Mr. P.'s neighbouring property there were offensive accumulations, (which Mr. Prockter assured the Council he was about to remove). Another Pipewellgate unpleasantness, under the arches of the High Level Bridge, came under the notice of the Committee. The Surveyor having called the attention of the Committee to the insufficient manner in which the contractor for scavenging, &c., was carrying out his agreement, they recommended that the Town Clerk be instructed to write to him on the subject. The Secretary of the General Board of Health, Mr. T. Taylor, had communicated a copy of a report made by Mr. Austin on the proposed works for the sewerage and drainage of the eastern district; together with the sanction of the Board to the borrowing of £2,345, on the security of the rates, for the execution of the works. Mr. Austin acceded to the proposed departure by the Local Board from the line of sewer laid down by the Surveyor—(a deviation, namely, into Oakwellgate, so that the outfall should be near the Brandling drops, instead of near to Hawks & Co.'s ironworks). The Surveyor had prepared his drawings and specifications accordingly; and the Committee recommended that the Public Works Loan Commissioners be asked on what terms and conditions they would lend the sum of £2,345, and that it be an instruction to the Surveyor to prepare the needful estimates for entering upon the contracts on the 21st of February. The report closed by recommending the payment of several accounts.

The report having been received, it was considered clause by clause, and gave rise to several conversational discussions. As to a remark in the report on the trifling amount of the burden cast upon the property benefited, Mr. COOK said it ought to be borne in mind that already their rates were equivalent to 12½ per cent. on the property of the borough. He would, however, say no more at present, as the report committed the Council no further than to an inquiry into the terms on which the money would be lent. Mr. HODGSON observed, that as a great deal had been said, from time to time, as to the loans for the Baths and Washhouses, he would suggest that the Commissioners be asked if the sum required for the sewer might be borrowed by instalments. Mr. COOK said, they had lent so small a sum as £1,000 to the Poor Law Guardians. The suggestion was agreed to; and, on the motion of Mr. ROBSON, seconded by Mr. WOOLSTON, the report was adopted.

Mr. Ald. ROBSON presented a report from the Baths and Laundries Committee, which first dealt with cer-

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tain delays indulged in by the building contractor, and then stated that 35 applications had been made for the offices of master and matron, and 10 for the fireman's berth. Having laid down a rule as to qualification which reduced the former number to 10 and the latter to 5, the Committee left the election in the hands of the Council.

The discussion, usual on such occasions, ensued, as to the best mode of conducting the election. In the end, it was resolved that the Town Clerk should read over the 10 names, and that the testimonials of such of them as were proposed and seconded should be read; after which the Council should go to a vote.

Mr. Robert Warden, of 193, High-street, Gateshead, was nominated by Mr. Ald. HAWKS, and seconded by Mr. Ald. PEARSON.

Mr. William Chipchase, of Gateshead, (who had been employed by Mr. Henry Watson, the contractor for plumbing, &c., in fitting up the establishment,) was nominated by Mr. J. A. HYMERS, and seconded by Mr. B. J. PROCKTER.

There was a show of hands for Mr. Warden—7 to 9. Lost by 2.

Mr. Chipchase was then appointed by common consent—Mr. COOK observing that he believed them both to be very suitable men.

On the nomination of Mr. BRINTON, seconded by Mr. Ald. PEARSON, and supported by Mr. COOK, Mr. James Newton was appointed to the office of fireman.

Mr. Chipchase was called in, and informed of his success; whereupon he returned thanks in a speech so well prepared as to imply that he must have been pretty confident of his appointment. The fireman, being probably less eloquent, was not in attendance.

A report was presented from the Parliamentary, Railway, and Byelaw Committee, recommending that the fee for the hackney-carriage license be 5s., and that Superintendent Schorey be appointed inspector of hackney-carriages, with an annual salary of five guineas.

A messenger here entered the room bearing a written announcement of the capture of Revel by the allied fleets. There was an instantaneous burst of joy, and the MAYOR proposed that they should give three cheers.

Mr. Ald. PEARSON said, he quite approved of the proposal. They could not appoint a more proper or deserving person than Mr. Schorey. (There was then some little merriment, it being supposed, at first, that it was the proposal to give three cheers the worthy Alderman had risen to support.)

The report was read and adopted.

The TOWN CLERK announced that Messrs. James Hewitt and John Vickers would retire in the east ward on the 1st of November; Messrs. Prockter and Garbutt in the west; and Messrs. E. Crawshay and R. W. Hodgson in the south.

Mr. Ald. ROBSON said, the business of the meeting was now done, and he would have no objection to join in carrying out the Mayor's proposal. (Applause. "Three British cheers" were accordingly given for the fall of Revel, and the Council separated—very soon to hear that their cheers had been thrown away on a piece of false news!

The foundation-stone of Melbourne University and Public Library were laid by Sir Charles Hotham, the new Governor of Victoria, soon after his arrival.

THE MARKET DAY.

(From the *Northern Tribune*, September, 1854.)

OH! Hinny Jack! aw've wearied sair
Te see thee come back frae the pay,
That aw may get it ettled reet;
Te-morn, thou knaws, is market day.

Aw gat the bits o' bairns te bed,
Conn'd ower the things we wanted myest;
But, 'til aw knaw'd what thou had myed,
Maw ettlin' was but nobbut guessed.

Aw's glad te see it is se much,
And noo hev hopes te get the goon
Thou promised in thy wily way
The varry furst good fortnith's hewin'.

This mun stand furst upon the list
That sadly croods maw muddled brain;
And, just like wanderin' iv a mist,
Te fix the rest seems all in vain.

Thou munnet Bobby's clogs forget
That we hev promised him se lang,
Te keep him frae the cawd and wet
He's barefoot trudged for weeks amang.

Aud little Sall wants varry sair
A bit new ribbon for her hat;
She says, "Aw's sure ye this mun spare:
Ye knaw aw've lang expected that."

Thou wants some odds and ends thysel':
Thy panties luick but varry bare:
Thy coat's beginnin' sair te fyell,
At elbows it wants some repair.

And mind think on the weary backy,
For noo maw box is n'arly tuim;
But ower all, maw hinny Jacky!
Bring me a drop o' Wylam's rum.

Thou knaws it keeps maw heart abuin,
When wark is scairsh and leevin' dear;
Maw weary days wad suin be duin,
Did nut the drop and backy cheer.

Thou'll bring me some soft sugar hyem;
And mind in quarters get the hyell,
And though the gain's nut worth the nyem,
Aw'll get the castin' o' the skyell.

Thou mun think on of onions tee,
As we've a geuss for Sunday's dinner;
And it, thou knaws, will nut suit me,
Without there's lots o' stuffin' in her.

Thou'll nut the supper tripe forget;
Mind pick the bits that aw like best,
And dinnet let awd tripey Bet
Cram thou wi' stuff aw cannut tyest.

Thou munnet frae the market come
Withoot thy bottle o' black beer,
Which thou se likes mix'd wi' thy rum,
And diz se much thy spurrits cheer.

Aw want some odd things frae the toon,
And, as aw izn't gawn mysel,
Get what thou can wi' that half-croon:
Aw's flaid it winnet get the hyell.

Thou'll mebby call at Alder Dunn's
Te see if maw bit hat be duin,
For aw've te stand for Nelly's bairn
In it, neist Sunday efternuin.

Now, just as he was gawn to leave,
A little curly-heeded callant
Tuik deddy softly by the sleeve,
And said, "Eh! fetch me hyem a ballant,

"Or else some funny story buick,
That aw may read tiv Uncle Joe,
As he sits laughin' i' the nuick—
He diz enjoy these worthies so.

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"The feats of Hickathrift and Hood
All pass with *him* for Gospel truth,
And ony doot he nivir could
Admit, e'en frae the preacher's mooth."

Noo hinny! mind thou comes suin hyem,
Aw'll hev a white kyeck for thy tea;
Thou knaws the treat's nut like the syem,
Withoot thy canny company.

And mind thou gets a gill o' beer
And penny-rowl to set thee hyem;
They help se much thy crackin' here,
It's happiness aw cannut nyem.

Fell House, August 22, 1854. THOMAS WILSON.

THE QUEEN IN NEWCASTLE.

THE Queen and Royal Family returned from Balmoral on Friday, the 13th October, 1854, arriving in the Central Station about 20 minutes before 2, where there was a large assemblage of ladies and gentlemen, to receive Her Majesty. The military were on duty, (26th Cameronians, First Dragoons, and Pensioners). The royal travellers entered the station amidst loud cheers and the music of the regimental band. Lord Aberdeen was in attendance on the Queen, who was accompanied by Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, Princess Royal, and four other of the royal children. Major-General Grey, Lord Alfred Paget, the Countess of Jersey, Countess of Desart, and the Hon. Miss Stanley were in attendance.

The Queen conversed with a party including Lady Williamson and her daughter, Mr. H. G. Liddell, M.P., Mrs. H. G. Liddell, &c., &c.

Her Majesty enabled the Mayor of Newcastle to make the gratifying announcement that one hundred guineas would be added by the royal bounty to the Newcastle and Gateshead Relief Fund.

The Queen, addressing the Mayor of Gateshead, said to him, "This has been a most calamitous occurrence. I feel exceedingly sorry for Gateshead. How many lives have been lost?" The Mayor replied that he could not state the exact number, (there being, it is to be feared, many destroyed whose remains have not been found). Her Majesty asked if the Mayor had any idea of the number. His Worship replied, he should say from 50 to 60. Prince Albert inquired if this was not the place where the cholera was so fatal? The Mayor said it was one of the places. "Are you going to build on the same ground?" said His Royal Highness. The Mayor expressed a hope that Gateshead would obtain a public quay on the site. The Prince then remarked that there was commonly some good came out of every evil.

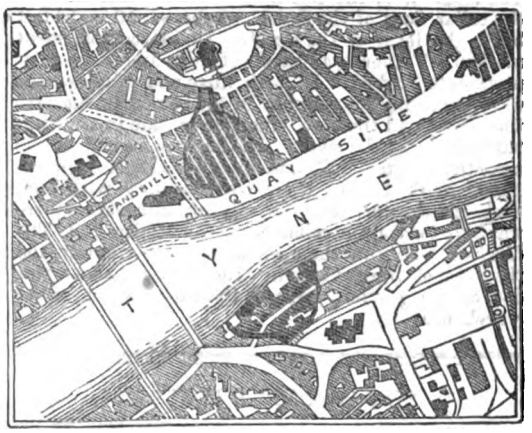
Her Majesty was dressed in a delicate lilac or slate-coloured silk dress, slightly striped with green; a lavender coloured mantle, covered with black lace; and white straw bonnet, trimmed with white ribbon and white feathers.

The royal party remained in the refreshment rooms about half an hour.

The royal travellers passed slowly along the High Level Bridge, and viewed with great interest and sympathy the havock made in the two towns by the fire and explosion. Everywhere the inhabitants were anxiously watching the train, gratified by the curiosity of the Queen and her companions; and loud were the cheers which met the royal ear.

Her Majesty reached Hull (her destination for the night) at a quarter to 6.

THE GREAT CALAMITY.

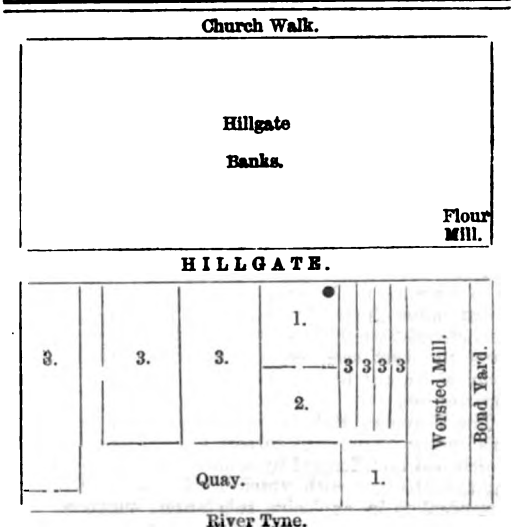


WE have had a portion of Mr. Thomas Oliver's map of Newcastle engraved, comprising the districts destroyed. These are enclosed within a well-defined boundary line, approximating to accuracy.

The black dot on the Gateshead side of the Tyne indicates the site of the explosion; and the narrow street running through the patch of buildings is Hillgate. The ruined church of St. Mary will be readily distinguished. It was between this church, and the block of buildings destroyed by the fire and the explosion, that Ensign Paynter and Corporal Stephenson were killed.

The black clump on the right of the Quayside ruin is the Custom House:—that on the left, the Guildhall. The building above the range of the fire is All Saints' Church.

The damage scattered by the explosion over the two towns, extended far beyond the area included in our engraving.



WE have here a plan, not accurate, but sufficiently so to convey a clear notion of the state of things prior

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to the fire and explosion of the 6th of October. The diagram to the left of the worsted mill exhibits the cellar floor of the bond warehouse, 10 or 12 feet below the level of the street. In the compartment marked "2" there was nitrate of soda; and in the compartments marked "1," both nitre and sulphur—the nitre overlying the sulphur in the compartment next the street, and the two lying side by side in the compartment next the river. In the four arched vaults next the worsted mill, and in all the other compartments marked "3," there was sulphur; with iron, lead, manganese, &c. Of sulphur altogether there was 947½ tons on the cellar-floor, and of nitre 128. The *black dot* points out the apex of the cone or crater, and the focus of the explosion. Immediately above this dot, on the ground floor, was the entrance gate of the warehouse.

THE CORONER'S INQUEST.

SATURDAY, October 7, an inquest was held on the body of Thomas Scott, policeman, and others, who perished by the Hillgate explosion of the 6th Oct., at the Townhall, before J. M. Favell, Esq., Coroner for Chester Ward, and a jury consisting of—

John Greene (Foreman),	John Golightly,
Bryan John Prockter,	Joseph Abbot Hymers,
Matthew Thompson,	Robert Coulthard,
Samuel Neville,	John Vickers,
John Sowerby,	Joseph Fenwick,
Henry L. Monro,	Edward Bruce.
William Lishman,	

The jury, after being sworn, viewed the remains of Scott and others at the adjoining police-station.

The Coroner briefly addressed the jury. Several persons, he said, had lost their lives by the late explosion — many more, he feared, than had yet been found. An inquiry, however, as to the cause of death in any one of the number, would suffice for the whole; and since it would have added to the distress of surviving relatives to keep from them, unnecessarily, the bodies of the deceased, as soon as they were identified he had given orders under which they might be removed, with the exception of the policeman Smith, whose friends lived close by. A view of one of the bodies was as sufficient as if the jury had seen the whole. Evidence would be given as to the fire and the explosion—the finding of the bodies, and the state in which they were. Mr. Schorey, the superintendent of the police, would be examined, and would produce other witnesses. He (Mr. Favell) would also take care that every person who could throw light upon the subject of inquiry should have an opportunity of being heard. There was a strong feeling in the public mind as to the cause of this great calamity, and the fullest investigation should be made. If necessary, a practical chemist would be employed, that the jury might have the best scientific assistance in forming their conclusions, and be enabled to give a just and satisfactory verdict.

The Foreman said, he had sought to take part in this inquiry in order to correct an erroneous opinion which had been formed by some persons, who, knowing that the firm with which he was connected were large dealers in explosive substances, supposed that, if gunpowder had caused the explosion, it was their gunpowder. He wished to deny that there, or at any other place not sanctioned by law, they had any gunpowder. They must not understand him as saying that gunpowder was the cause of this explosion; but, whatever that cause might be, he would do his best to investigate it.

Mr. W. H. Schorey deposed that, about half-past 12 o'clock on Friday morning, a report was made to him of a fire having broken out in Mr. James Wilson's worsted-manufactory in Hillgate. The deceased, Thomas Scott, was one of the men on duty at the fire. Witness sent him to the barracks in Newcastle with a communication from the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Haggie), and a detachment of soldiers came to render assistance. At first, you could go into the building in which the fire commenced. Some alterations appeared to have been in progress—seating or resetting the boiler. — (Mr. Bruce: No! that is a mistake.)—The great bulk of the fire was then on the side of the manufactory next to the bond warehouse of Mr. George Sisson. It continued to rage violently in the factory, and, after some time, flames issued in volumes through the windows of the warehouse also. This would be, perhaps, at about 2 o'clock. Witness subsequently left Hillgate to obtain a view of the fire from a higher point. This would be about ten minutes or a quarter past 3 o'clock. He was opposite a passage leading up to Churchwalk, when a terrific explosion occurred, forcing him into the passage. The air was darkened, and there was a great fall of stones and bricks and rubbish, extending, as he afterwards found, over a large area, including even a considerable part of Newcastle, on the opposite side of the river. Loud shrieks and cries were raised; and when he crept out of the passage, and went up to the Churchwalk, he found the houses knocked to pieces — several soldiers bleeding—men and women buried in rubbish, and begging to be pulled out. This was nearly opposite Mr. John Davidson's steam flour mill. The iron palisades of the churchyard were blown away, and the people were assisted into the enclosure. Two military officers were bleeding copiously. The maimed and wounded who required medical aid, to the number of about twenty, were conveyed to Newcastle Infirmary in carts belonging to Mr. John Barras. The dead were borne to the police-station in Gateshead. One of them was P.C. Thomas Scott. The persons killed by the explosion in Gateshead, and whose bodies had been found, were — (besides those who had died in the infirmary):—

Thomas Scott, policeman, aged 27.
Robert Pattinson, of Newcastle, aged 38, tanner and town-councillor.
Charles Hamilton, about 53, hairdresser, Church-street.
Cranbourne Hastings Paynter, 19, an ensign in H.M. 26th Regiment.
John Stephenson, 34, a lance-corporal in the same regiment.
Anthony Willis, about 60, skinner, Gateshead.
Charles Duke, aged 12, apprentice to a bricklayer.
Charles Duke, his father, about 45, foreman to Mr. Edward Bruce (juryman), builder.
Frank Conway, 6, Mr. Potts's-yard, son of Daniel Conway, blacksmith, killed by the fall of a roof in his father's house.
A man named M'Kinny, a labourer, now in the police-station, identified this morning.
And another man lying there, whose name is not known.

These, excepting Conway, were got out of the rubbish on the spot. Others, known to have been at the fire, were missing, viz.:—

Mr. Charles Bertram, Borough Magistrate.
Mr. William Davidson, son of Mr. Davidson, miller.

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Mr. Henry Harrison, Dean-street, Newcastle, basket-maker.
A woman, probably named Hart.
Two firemen.

While Mr. Schorey was giving evidence, some one entered the court, and stated that the body hitherto unclaimed was that of William Battersby Scott, (one of Hawks & Crawshay's workmen).

Sergeant Robert Sloan, of the 26th Cameronians, deposed :—I was ordered out on duty on Friday morning, between 2 and 3 o'clock, to go to a fire with our engine. A party of 50 men fell in, under command of a captain (Hussey). We brought the engines over to Gateshead. About three o'clock, an order came to me, through Cranbourne Hastings Paynter, an ensign in our regiment, to halt the party until we saw where we were to get water. We had hardly halted before we got orders to advance, and go to the rear of Hillgate. We were taking down the hose, and in the act of putting on the suction pipe, Mr. Paynter giving directions, when a loud explosion took place. The ground shook and the air was darkened with dust and missiles. I lost sight of Mr. Paynter, who was afterwards found dead amongst the ruins. John Stephenson, a lance-corporal, one of our party, was killed at the same place, a large stone or a brick having struck him on the side of the head, and knocked him down. This was in Churchwalk, close to the graveyard wall. A house had been blown over upon the ensign and the corporal, by which they were both killed, and many more were hurt — two seriously. One of the spiked rails of the graveyard was forced into the belly of one soldier. I was not seriously hurt myself. I have been in active service, and was present when a mine was exploded in China, and a fort blown up. This was just a similar scene.—By Mr. Hymers : The explosion was such a one as gunpowder would produce. —By Mr. Neville : The smell was that of sulphur—not of gunpowder. I know the smell of powder well.—By the Foreman : The explosion was such as gunpowder would have produced, but the smell was not. I was thrown down by the shock. I had been in trying circumstances before, and flatter myself I possess a little presence of mind. I lay still about half a minute, with my hands covering my head, thinking a missile might strike me.—By Mr. Neville : I think there was a second small explosion, but nothing like the other.—By the Coroner : I may be mistaken. It might not be an explosion, but the sound of the fire kindling up again after the fall of the rubbish which had smothered it for a time.—By the Jury : I cannot say whether the smell of sulphur in large quantities might have covered the smell of gunpowder.—By Mr. Neville : I have never known anything but gunpowder used for exploding purposes.

Mr. Robert Harrison Wilson, of Gateshead, surgeon, deposed :—I am surgeon to the police-force. I believe the list of the dead, spoken to by Mr. Schorey, to be correct. On the morning of the explosion I was first in attendance at the police-station, receiving those who were brought in. The immense fall of brick and stone, the great quantity of sulphurous acid, and the action of fire, might one and all be the cause of death. Tne greater part of those who were brought to the station had suffered actual violence, but the sulphurous acid was sufficient to destroy life. I saw the body of Ensign Paynter at the police-office. The head and chest were bruised, and there was much bleeding at the nose and mouth. I should fancy, from the flow of blood, that there was some internal injury. Corporal Stephenson had sustained an extensive fracture of the skull, passing transversely across the apex, sufficient to cause death. A blow from a brick or stone might have caused the fracture. Charles Duke the elder was much burnt : nearly the whole of the lower extremities were burnt off, and the other parts of the body much charred. The right foot of his son Charles, and lower part of the leg, were burnt off. The body of M'Kinney is much charred. The skull of Frank Conway is fractured across the apex. The body of Thomas Scott, policeman, is marked all over by severe bruises. There is a wound on the head—no fracture. The bruises, externally, would hardly cause death. I should say he died from suffocation or external injury. The body of William Scott, just identified, is much bruised. The body of Robert Pattinson was much bruised, but I should imagine he died from suffocation. His body was entirely covered up, and air would be excluded. The body of Charles Hamilton, especially about the head and face, is much bruised. The right fore-arm is fractured, and dislocated at the elbow. The body of Anthony Willis was severely bruised about the head and chest, and there was much bleeding from the ears and nose. I have no doubt the whole were killed by the explosion. From the police-station I went to the fire, about 4 o'clock, and attended the wounded.

Mr. Percival Smith was the next witness examined—the keeper of the warehouse in which the explosion occurred. He was, he said, in the service of Mr. George Sisson, who held the warehouse. There were in the lower flat about 200 tons of iron, 800 tons of lead, 70 tons of manganese, 130 tons of nitrate of soda, from 400 to 500 tons of brimstone, 80 tons of guano, 10 tons of alum, and some Roman cement. The nitre was in bags — the sulphur loose. The nitre was in three different apartments. An account was kept of everything in the warehouse, which, on the part of Mr. Sisson, he now produced. On the second flat there were upwards of 400 tons of sulphur in bulk, 40 tons of yellow ochre, about 10 tons of peat ash lying loose (which he believed was burnt turf), about 5 tons of arsenic, 250 tons of guano in bags, 10 tons of manganese in casks, 5 tons of alum in cask, about a ton and a half of coal tar in three casks, about half a ton of zinc in wood cases, a case of yellow metal weighing about 5 cwt., 20 tons or more of pumice stone, and 30 tons of copperas. On the third flat there were about 10 tons of pumice stone, 500 tons of brimstone, 5 tons of tin in boxes, 80 or 90 tons of bone ashes, and 100 bundles of wood hoops. On the fourth flat there were about 170 tons of salt in bulk, 500 tons of sulphur, and 17 tons of pumice stone. On the fifth flat there were about 70 tons of salt and 180 tons of sulphur. On the sixth flat, about 50 tons of manure. There was nothing on the seventh flat. He found, on adding up the figures, that they were probably not quite correct. He did not keep his accounts in flats, and was therefore dependent on his memory. He should say that, altogether, there would not be less than 3,000 tons of sulphur in the warehouse. There was no gunpowder. He kept the keys of the warehouse, and no gunpowder could be admitted without his knowledge. He had no reason to believe that gunpowder had ever obtained admission under any other name. It was possible, but he believed it had never occurred. Tho arsenic

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was in small iron-hooped casks, and came from Mr. Coll Taylor. He did not believe that the actual contents were gunpowder. The building was not a bond warehouse, but a free warehouse. Leidemann & Co., Ashton & Co., Harrison, Carr, & Co., Mr. Joseph Harrison, Mr. Black, and Mr. Beldon, all had floors, and keys to their respective floors; but he, alone, had the outer key of the whole warehouse. What he had mentioned as the contents of the warehouse included what those gentlemen had, with the exception of some soda or alkali, he forgot which, omitted in his statement. There were about 47 tons of sulphur in a vault, with about 45 tons of nitrate — the sulphur beneath, and a tarpauling between. It was a stone vault, arched over. Another lot of the nitrate lay beyond the entrance to the arched vault, and without sulphur—about 30 tons. The floors of the warehouse were wood. The other nitrate was in an adjoining warehouse on the same flat. 50 tons of nitrate and 75 tons of sulphur lay by the side of each other, and touching, surrounded by the 200 tons of pig iron. The soda was in bags. There were no windows in the vaulted apartment—it was quite confined. There was no naphtha on the premises. The burnt peat was on a floor above the nitrate and sulphur, but would not fall on them; neither would the calcined bones. As far as his judgment went, the fire had got to the vault, and caused the explosion. There were more explosions than one. There were three cracks before the big one. He was in Hillgate at the time. The flames burst out of the warehouse into the street about 3 o'clock. The first report occurred soon after. It was like the discharge of a gun, or louder. He was coming away, and met Thomas Dodds and John Bewick. Dodds, a Quayside labourer, had assisted in putting in the nitrate. Witness said to them the nitrate was in three lots; and if it was the nitrate that had made the explosion, one of the three was gone. Dodds and Bewick were accustomed to work among nitrate, and were afraid of it. While they were all speaking together, there were two more cracks, and he thought the whole was gone; but immediately came the great explosion, and they were thrown into the doorway of the Steamboat public house (Nicholson's). He was knocked down. He got up as soon as he could, and made for the High-street, falling down twice or thrice over the rubbish. — The witness was examined at some length with a view to ascertain if the sulphur and nitrate of soda had become buried in the falling ruins of the warehouse, so as to be sealed up, in such a manner as to cause a violent explosion; and such was the tendency of his statement. The charred roof and floors, with the liquid sulphur of the upper flats, had fallen on the stores below; and his own opinion was that the explosion was produced by the nitrate and sulphur.

Mr. Bush, solicitor, who attended with Mr. Sisson, observed that Smith's evidence as to quantities, being given by guess and from memory, might not be accurate. Mr. Sisson, if the Coroner wished it, would give an exact statement in writing from his books.

The Coroner said he would thank him to do so.

In reply to the Foreman, Mr. Sisson stated that he never had any applications to receive gunpowder; and if ever there had been such a thing in his warehouse (which he did not believe), it was without his knowledge. He was not aware that any of the parties named, who occupied portions of the warehouse, dealt in powder. He believed not. He could not say as to Mr. Coll Taylor, to whom the arsenic belonged.

The Foreman said, when the persons named required small quantities of gunpowder, they came to him.

Mr. Sisson stated, in correction of a misapprehension, that he was neither the proprietor nor the occupier of the warehouse, but simply the agent of the proprietors, the County Fire Office.

It was arranged that the inquiry should be adjourned to Wednesday next, the 11th inst., at 10, and that, in the meantime, Mr. Hugh Lee Pattinson, of the Felling Chemical Works, should be requested to appear, with a view to giving evidence.

Statements were made by jurymen as to current stories about the presence of gunpowder in the warehouse; when Mr. Neville said, if any one possessed information of the kind, let him come openly forward, and state what he knew at the inquest.—One of the stories was to the effect that gunpowder had been stored in a bond warehouse at Javel Group, and, on remonstrance, it was removed, being transferred to the warehouse in Hillgate. Mr. R. Plummer and Mr. A. G. Gray were named as gentlemen who could give evidence, in proof of gunpowder being in the warehouse.

The Coroner said, he could only repeat what he had stated in opening his court, that every one who had information to give, bearing upon the inquiry, would be heard, if he offered himself.

The proceedings of the day now closed.

Among the gentlemen present, during the whole or a part of the time, were the Mayor, Town Clerk, Mr. H. G. Liddell, M.P., Mr. R. W. Hodgson, Dr. Jollie, &c.

Capt. Du Cane, R.E., Barracks, Newcastle, (23, Eldon-square, Newcastle,) has been appointed by the Government to attend the inquiry — an instruction which has been received by the Mayor this evening (October 7), in answer to his telegraphic request, viz. :—

The Mayor of Gateshead to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Doubts exist whether the dreadful explosion in Gateshead, this morning, has been caused by an illegal deposit of gunpowder, or by a combination of chemical elements acted on by fire; and the Mayor is requested by a public meeting to request a Government officer to attend the Coroner's investigation.

Whilst the public meeting was deliberating, the flames have broken out again, fearfully.

Gateshead, 6th October, 1854.

G. J. Kenmir, Town Clerk.

We see by a "fourth edition" of the *Courant* that the body found in the hold of a ship at the Quayside, on the morning of the explosion, was that of Robert Laidler, of Gateshead, engineer, aged 23, who was employed in the works of Messrs. Stephenson & Co. He was the son of Mr. William Laidler, forty years agent to Crowley, Millington, & Co. He was, it is said, like many others, in the rigging of a ship, viewing the fire, when the explosion occurred, and he was thrown down.—(The *Newcastle Chronicle* says that he was found in the hold a mass of mutilation. Three hats and two mechanics' caps were found in the same vessel, one of them marked "Joseph Richardson." An inquest was held on the remains of Laidler, and adjourned to Tuesday, October 17. It has been suggested that his body was thrown from Gateshead, and fell into the *Familien*, then lying at Newcastle quay;

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and if this suggestion be accepted, then it follows that bodies may have been hurled into the Tyne. We are assured that when last seen alive he was in Hillgate.)

The persons lying dead in the infirmary are Thomas Young, George Wilkinson, and Ann Laidler.

Troops have arrived from Carlisle, Sunderland, and York, to assist in preserving order.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11. — The police-court was crowded; and would have been if its dimensions had equalled those of St. George's Hall in Liverpool. Military guard was kept, as for several days past, at the door. Captain Du Cane sat on the right of the Coroner; and on and near the Bench we observed during the day the Worshipful the Mayor and several of the Magistrates; with also the Town Clerk (Mr. Kenmir), Dr. Headlam, Mr. George Hawks, Mr. Alexander George Gray (senior and junior), Mr. Hugh Lee Pattinson (senior and junior), Mr. Ald. Smith, Mr. Ald. Hodgson, Mr. N. Ellison, Rev. William Hawks, Mr. Kell, Mr. Matthias Dunn (Government Inspector of Mines), Messrs. T. E. Forster, R. W. Hodgson, F. Bennett, A. S. Stevenson, &c., &c.

The Coroner said, since they were last assembled, Lord Palmerston, the Home Secretary, had considered it desirable to depute Capt. Du Cane, of the Royal Engineers, to attend the inquiry on the part of Her Majesty's Government. That gentleman, therefore, was now present, and was entitled to put questions to the witnesses and take part in the proceedings.

Mr. Schorey stated, that he now produced certain communications which had been made to him since the first sitting of the court:—

Side, Newcastle, October 10, 1854.

SIR,—I am informed that Anthony Hogg, cartman, Brandling-place, states that he led *gunpowder* into the premises the day before the explosion took place. I believe the authority to be good. Anyhow, have him examined.

J. BLAKEY.

Gateshead Ironworks, October 10, 1854.

John Gee, a waterman at Blaydon, has said that the day previous to the fire in Hillgate he took several tons of gunpowder in his wherry from Bertram's warehouse.

George March, a waterman at the Rabbit-banks, who has been much employed in the lighterage of gunpowder from the Scotch ships in the Tyne, has said that he had delivered lately a quantity of gunpowder at Bertram's warehouse in Hillgate.

The above information was not got direct from the parties named, but was simply ascertained in conversing on the subject of the fire. JOHN ATKINSON.

A large quantity of gunpowder was also stored in Messrs. Greene's bond-warehouse, West-street, and was carted to Dunston immediately after the explosion took place in Hillgate. *This is a fact. See Robert Tate, Messrs. Greene's cartman.* Gunpowder was also deposited in large quantities at Messrs. Featherstone & Elder's, Quayside, and was removed during the fire. Part of it was taken away by the *Waterman* steamer. It is also reported that several tons of gunpowder are at present stored at No. 50 Bond, Close, Newcastle. JOHN ATKINSON.

The Coroner said, they had nothing to do with gunpowder save in connection with the warehouse in Hillgate. As to other places, the jury must leave them to the Magistrates. Was the foreman of the jury one of the Messrs. Greene referred to in Atkinson's letter?

Mr. Schorey: Yes.

The Foreman said he was prepared to reply.

The Coroner said, it belonged to the Magistrates, and not this court, to take cognizance of the matter.

The Foreman could only say that he was ready publicly to reply to the letter, either there or anywhere.

The Coroner repeated that this was a charge to bring before the Magistrates: it was not included in this inquiry.

The Foreman replied, that he was ready for the fullest investigation any day. It was in the discretion of the Coroner whether or not he should explain at once.

Mr. Schorey read a third letter:—

Mr. Kelly, leathercutter, High-street, reports that a man named Batey, blacksmith, saw one of the warehousemen on Friday morning, and told Batey that he hunted the foreman of the warehouse out to get the keys where the gunpowder was to pitch it into the river; and he said there was no fears, the fire would never reach it.

Mr. Schorey said, in reply to the Coroner, he had not yet had time to make proper inquiry into the facts stated in these letters.

Mr. Robert Plummer, being sworn, deposed:—I am a Magistrate of Newcastle. I have never stated that I knew parties to have gunpowder in this place. I have no direct information to give. In connection with the explosion I have heard various rumours, and am engaged in investigating them as a Magistrate. As to what was said in this court on Saturday, my remark was founded on common rumour. I heard in conversation that 7¼ tons of gunpowder was in the warehouse at the time of the explosion. I cannot say who it was that named it on the Quayside, but I daresay he had no better authority than common report. He (witness) was following up every trail that he could discover, in the hope of arriving at a satisfactory conclusion; and he would be glad to have copies of the letters read by Mr. Schorey.

The Coroner directed that Mr. Plummer should have copies.

Mr. Schorey said he had already communicated their contents to one of the Newcastle inspectors.

The Foreman here said, if the Coroner thought his position an improper one—that it might be supposed he was there to cloak any acts of his own, or to prevent inquiry as to the presence of gunpowder in the warehouse—he would be happy to retire. He had thought it right on Saturday, knowing what had been said, to make the remarks which he did; and he would now repeat that he had never had an ounce of gunpowder in the warehouse in Hillgate. He was anxious to leave himself in the hands of the court.

The Coroner said, as Mr. Greene offered to retire, he would accept his proposal, having one juryman beyond the required number.

The Foreman said he was in the Coroner's hands.

The Coroner: Then, as you do not object to retire, the jury had better appoint another foreman.

Mr. John Sowerby was appointed foreman.

Mr. Charles Dunn, of the firm of Clarke & Dunn, wharfingers and shipowners, Newcastle, deposed that they were connected with the premises in the Javel Group referred to on Saturday. They never removed a barrel of gunpowder to the warehouse in Hillgate in their lives. It was not correct that they had ever done so in any way whatever; nor had they any knowledge of gunpowder having been taken there. There was a powder magazine half-way down the river, at Wincolmlee, near Walker. The property belonged to the Corporation of Newcastle. Mr. Danson was storekeeper. Knew of no such place on the Durham side of the river. — By Mr. Prockter: There could be no gunpowder removed from our warehouse without my knowledge. It had nothing to do with this inquiry whether gunpowder had ever been

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stored in the warehouse in Javel Group. Would be happy to answer such inquiries elsewhere.

The Coroner: We have no power to enter upon such investigations here.

The Court now proceeded to take the evidence of the merchants who had goods in the Hillgate warehouse at the time of the explosion.

Mr. Theodore Langé deposed:—I am a partner in the firm of Leidemann & Co. We were subtenants in the premises which exploded. We had in our warehouse at the time of the explosion,

420 tons of brimstone,
80 tons of Patagonian guano,
55 tons of alkali in 99 casks,
3½ tons of fuller's earth in 7 casks,

and some office furniture. I know of no gunpowder being in the warehouse. We never stored any there, nor am I aware that any one else did.—By Capt. Du Cane: Goods might be stored on our premises without our knowledge.—By the Coroner: We had about

260 tons of brimstone on the second floor, with
60 tons of Patagonian guano.
20 tons of Patagonian guano in No. 1 vault.
42 tons of brimstone in No. 3 vault.
110 tons of brimstone on the second floor of No. 42 warehouse.
55 tons of alkali in 99 casks.
3½ tons of fuller's earth in 7 casks.

I can give no evidence as to the explosion.—By Mr. Neville: I never saw any gunpowder in our warehouse.—By Mr. Prockter: There might be some there without my knowledge.

Mr. Sampson Langdale: I am the responsible agent of Ashton & Co., of London, manure manufacturers and merchants. We had goods in the warehouse at the time of the explosion.

56 tons of ammoniacal charcoal on the sixth floor, 43 bond.
71 tons 13 cwt. of yellow ochre.
10 tons of peat ashes.
200 empty manure bags—"gunny" bags—in bond 43, second floor.

I am not aware of any gunpowder being on the premises; but there might be, without my knowledge.—By Capt. Du Cane: I believe there was another key to the warehouse.—By Mr. Prockter: The charcoal was in bulk.—By the Foreman: It was a vegetable charcoal that had been used in the London gasworks for purposes of purification; and, collecting ammonia, became valuable as manure. It was in a state of fine powder.—By Mr. Prockter: If it fell among nitre and sulphur an inflammable compound would be formed.—By Mr. Neville: The bottom story was arched over, but not entirely.—By Mr. Hymers: We had no agreement as to what we should store in the warehouse. Mr. Sisson, I have no doubt, would have prevented us if we had wished to overload the floors; but we had no agreement as to combustibles.—By Mr. Neville: I am not aware if he would have allowed the storing of gunpowder. We never tried.—By Capt. Du Cane: Mr. Sisson was generally a cautious man, and anxious for the safety of his warehouse.—By the Coroner: Sulphur and nitre were not looked upon as dangerous prior to this occurrence.—By Capt. Du Cane: The charcoal being in a state of fine powder, the heat would act upon it the sooner. It would mix more readily with the sulphur and nitre. It would run through the floors to the lower flats.—By Mr. Neville: I never heard of gunpowder being on the premises.—By the Coroner: I can give Mr. Pattinson an analysis of the charcoal. (Produced the analysis.)

William Spencer: I live in Newcastle, and am not now in business. I saw the warehouse in Hillgate built, being commenced in 1839, and finished in 1842 or 43. This is the only plan I can now find. I was part owner of the property at first, but have ceased to be so for three or four years. All the arched vaults were below the level of the street, and on the side next to it.

Mr. Percival Smith (recalled): The nitre and brimstone, separated by a tarpauling cover, lay below the level of the street, but level with the quay.—By Capt. Du Cane: The entrance to the vault was from the quay. There was no entrance to it from the street. It was a dark vault.—By Mr. Bruce: I could point out the vault on the spot.—(The plan produced by Mr. Spencer did not comprise this part of the building.)—The vault was not arched where the nitrate was lying.—(It was arranged that the witness, in the presence of the Coroner, the jury, and Capt. Du Cane, should point out the position of the vault on the spot.)

Mr. John Harrison, of the firm of Harrison, Carr, & Co., merchants, deposed:—We had goods in this warehouse.

85 tons of bone ash.
226 tons of guano, (of various kinds, described by witness).

I am not aware that there was any gunpowder on our premises, but it might be there without our knowledge.—By Capt. Du Cane: Our key could be got at any time.

Mr. Joseph Harrison: I am a broker in Newcastle, and had goods in this warehouse.

51 tons 6 cwt. of Peruvian guano.
70 tons of sulphur.

I don't know in what part the sulphur was. I have no knowledge of there having ever been gunpowder in the warehouse.

Mr. Joseph Black: I am a merchant in Newcastle, and occupied a portion of this warehouse. I had 10,000 wood hoops there. I am not aware that there was any other key than my own.

Mr. William Beldon, merchant and shipbroker, Newcastle: I had 180 tons of salt in bulk on the fourth floor of No. 43 bond. I am not aware that gunpowder was ever stored on the premises, nor can I give any information as to the explosion. No one had a key but myself.

Mr. Coll Taylor: I am a merchant and general commission agent. I had 39 casks of arsenic in the warehouse—I don't know where—weighing 5 tons 14cwt. 2qrs. 22lbs. I entered 55 casks on the 16th of June; and on the 28th sent Mr. Sisson an order for the delivery of 16. The casks were iron-hooped, and weighed from 3 to 3¼ cwt., gross weight. They stood about 18 inches high. I am not aware that gunpowder was ever stored in the warehouse. I never stored any, nor heard of any being stored by others. There could not be gunpowder in these arsenic casks without my knowledge. I saw several of them opened. They came to me from Henry Conn, R.N., Falmouth. He sent 80. 25 were sold from the ship, and 55 sent to the warehouse.—By Capt. Du Cane: I could neither introduce nor withdraw goods without the permission of Mr. Sissons.—By the Coroner: George Blair, a waterman, brought the casks from the ship *Helston*, in which they had come to the Tyne.—By Mr. Hymers: I never dreamt of there being gunpowder

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in the warehouse.—By the Coroner: The arsenic was not lump, but powdered arsenic. George Blair took away the 16 casks.

Mr. Taylor's examination being concluded, he complained of the invidious manner in which he appeared, by the newspaper reports, to have been alluded to by Mr. Sisson on Saturday—stating that the other occupiers of the warehouse were not dealers in gunpowder, and making him an exception.

The Coroner said, Mr. Taylor had sworn that he had no gunpowder in the warehouse. He (Mr. Favell) could do no more for him than accept this evidence. (We may add, that nothing more was said of Mr. Taylor than that it was not known whether he was a dealer in gunpowder or not.)

George Blair, waterman, deposed to the transfer of the 55 casks, in June last, from a vessel that hailed from Plymouth. They were never out of his possession between the ship and the warehouse. He delivered them to Smith. Had no reason to believe that they contained gunpowder. There was great difference in the weight of gunpowder and arsenic. Arsenic was much heavier than powder; and if the casks had contained powder, he should have known it by the weight. Never moved gunpowder into these premises, nor knew of any having ever been.—By Mr. Prockter: Took the casks from the ship to the warehouse in daylight, assisted by his son.—By Mr. Fenwick: Took 16 of them away from the warehouse to the *Sea Nymph* for Hull.—By Mr. Lishman: The casks were of the ordinary kind used for arsenic.—(Blair produced arsenic and gunpowder casks. They were of very different aspect. At the request of a juryman he put one of the medium-sized gunpowder-casks into an arsenic cask, which held it conveniently.)

Mr. A. G. Gray, of the Friars' Goose Chemical Works, deposed:—I have no information as to gunpowder having been in the warehouse in Hillgate. I never said I knew of any having there, directly or indirectly. I have known gunpowder to have been received into the Javel Group warehouse, near my offices. I remonstrated with those who put it in—Messrs. Clark & Dunn. It continued, and I complained to Mr. Pollock, the owner of the warehouse, one of the Magistrates of Gateshead. He took measures to have it removed. This was eighteen months or two years ago. I cannot say where it was taken to. The place had evidently been used as an *entrepot* for large quantities of gunpowder from Scotland; for the waterman said he knew it to have been so long. I remonstrated with Clark & Dunn, one or both of them; and with their landlord, Mr. Pollock. I cannot say if the gunpowder was removed to the warehouse in Hillgate.—By Mr. Prockter: It came in considerable quantities—half a keel at a time. There was a serious fire adjoining the warehouse in Javel Group about 18 months ago. A large quantity of lucifer matches was got out of the warehouse on the occasion. This was after my complaints about the gunpowder.—By Mr. Neville: I did not see the powder removed, nor can I state whither it was taken.—By Mr. Lishman: Clark & Dunn having told their landlord they would store no more gunpowder, I had reason to suppose that the powder in the warehouse was removed, but cannot say that it was.—By Mr. Kenmir: Saw half-a-keel come at a time. The waterman admitted what it was.—By Captain Du Cane: Did not see the kegs. They were wrapped round with huckaback.—By the Coroner: Having reason to believe that the powder had been removed, I might say that it was possible they had been taken to Hillgate. 18 months or two years ago, I was passing through Hillgate, and saw a keel discharging gunpowder by a boat, to be taken away in a cart. (A juryman remarked that it the gunpowder were intended for the warehouse, it would scarcely have been delivered from the river, alongside.)

Mr. George Sisson, of Bloomfield-terrace, Gateshead, deposed that he was agent for the proprietors or mortgagees in possession of the warehouse in which the explosion was supposed to have occurred, and let portions of it to various parties. He now produced a list which he believed to be exact and accurate of the goods that were in the warehouse at the time of the explosion. (The list was minute and long, and has, substantially, appeared in evidence already. We give the following figures):—

Sulphur, first floor	947½	tons.
" second	505	"
" third	709	"
" fourth	337	"
" fifth	302	"
Total	2,800½	"
Nitrate of soda, first floor	128	"

The 50 tons of manure stuff (ammoniacal charcoal) was on the sixth floor. There were 874½ tons of lead, 409½ tons of iron, and 75 tons of manganese on the first floor. Witness never had any applications to store gunpowder. He could not see how gunpowder could be placed in the premises, except on the quay, without Smith's knowledge. Smith had been about three years with him, and had giving him every satisfaction. He was honest, truthful, and discreet. Witness was at the fire, and supposed the explosion to occur from the sulphur and nitrate. He could form no other opinion. Was not a chemist. Believed that no gunpowder was on the premises.—By Mr. Prockter: Was at home when the explosion took place. Was near the fire until, he supposed, about 3 o'clock. Had no watch upon him.—By the Coroner: Had no watchman on the premises.—By Mr. Neville: There was no water-tank on the premises.—By the Coroner: Believed the engine had played on the warehouse before the explosion. Begged a fireman to come and play upon the premises, and believed he did.—By Mr. Hymers: Remained in Hillgate until half-past 2. Did not go home because he expected an explosion. Mrs. Sisson was confined, and was nervous; so went home, seeing that nothing could be done to save the property. Said to Smith he would go home and see Mrs. Sisson. Smith said he would remain.—By the Foreman: Left Smith at this end of Hillgate—the west end.—By Capt. Du Cane: Did not anticipate the consequences of the fire. Never thought of such a thing.—By Mr. Lishman: Did not return to the fire after the explosion.—By Mr. Neville: Was not aware that any of the men who worked at the warehouse kept out of the way lest there should be an explosion.—By Capt. Du Cane: Knew nitrate of soda to be combustible, but did not think it to be explosive.—By Mr. Neville: Water and gas were not laid on in the premises.—By the Coroner: The Whittle Dean water ran along Hillgate.—By Capt. Du Cane: There were no printed instructions posted in the warehouse for the guidance of the men employed. They were verbally cautioned against smoking, and admonished to be careful.—By the Coroner: Smith was

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the only person regularly employed on the premises.—By Mr. Thompson: Smith and he were close to the fire.—By Mr. Prockter: To my knowledge there was no gunpowder on the premises.—By the Coroner: The evidence given by Smith, and reported in the newspapers, was substantially correct.—By Mr. Prockter: It would be a breach of trust in any of the men employed to admit goods without the knowledge of himself or Smith.

Mr. William Hall, the town-surveyor, deposed that he knew the building in which the explosion occurred. The plan which he now produced was from actual survey made six months ago. It was on a scale of 10 feet to a mile. He had laid down on the plan the crater, or truncated cone, which marked the site of the explosion. This water was 80 feet in diameter, and 12 or 14 feet deep from the surface of the street. The apex, or focus, was immediately below the entrance-gate of the warehouse. The entrance was on a level with the street. The passage led down to the river, and there was a quay behind on a level with the floor of the vaults.

Mr. Smith, who said the vaults would be 10 or 11 feet in height, pointed out on the plan the position occupied by the nitrate and sulphur that lay one upon the other. It was exactly identical with the apex of the cone. The nitre lay over the sulphur, close up to the wall, the place being full.

Capt. Du Cane remarked that the cellar-wall, notwithstanding the natural support which it derived from the roadway against which it was built, had been blown away, with the roadway itself—a remarkable evidence of the violence of the explosion.

Mr. Hall said, one of the large granite border stones in Hillgate, along which the wheels of the carts rolled as on a tramway, weighing nearly 3¼ cwts., had been blown over the bank into Oakwellgate.—By Mr. Prockter: It was thrown a horizontal distance of about 400 yards. It must have been blown to an immense altitude to be carried clear of the buildings on the bank. It was hurled high over the church.—By Capt. Du Cane: The warehouse was sufficiently strong for its purposes. It was as fine a piece of masonry as any man need wish to see. He knew nothing else like it in the two towns.—By Mr. Bush (solicitor): The original plan was made six months ago. This was but a copy of a portion of it. The plan itself was so large that it could hardly be brought into court. He had made the copy during yesterday and to-day. He had got the measurements of the crater that morning. He had fixed the site as nearly as he possibly could. It was not an imaginary sketch, but founded on actual measurements.

Mr. Bush submitted that the plan was not evidence.

Mr. Hugh Lee Pattinson: I reside at Scots House, near West Boldon. I am one of the owners of the Felling and of the Washington Chemical Works. They are of large extent. We have about 700 men employed at Felling and 300 at Washington. I have given my mind to chemistry during nearly the whole of my life—about 40 years. I have received from you an extract of the evidence of Percival Smith, stating the contents of the warehouse in question. (Witness particularized the contents.) My opinion is that not one of these substances is explosive *per se*. I am also of opinion that no two of these substances would become explosive by being roughly mixed together. I think I could go further and say that hardly any three of them so mixed would become explosive. During these two days and this morning I have made several experiments. Not because I felt any philosophical doubt, for I had none; but to make assurance doubly sure. I have melted nitrate of soda; and when perfectly fluid and red hot, I have poured into it melted brimstone; and there has been produced, certainly, intense heat, but no explosion. I have introduced into melted nitrate of soda, while red hot, guano, melted zinc, and coal tar, and there has been no explosion. There simply took place what chemists know as "deflagration." It follows, therefore, that the contents of the warehouse alone would not explode. We want therefore another element—and that element is water; for we have abundant evidence that when water comes in contact with intensely heated and melted saline matter, violent explosions take place. This I also proved by experiment, by introducing a small quantity of water into a crucible, and also into a large jar, both containing incandescent nitrate of soda, deflagrating with sulphur; and in each case the vessel was shivered to pieces with loud explosion. Various other experiments were made by myself and assistants of the same nature—and all with the same result. (Mr. Pattinson here read portions of a paper by Dr. Hare, from the *Philosophical Magazine*, on the New York explosion of 1845. See another column.) The fire, (he continued,) the effects of which we are considering, had burnt a considerable time before the explosion; and the evidence shows that towards the base of the building, in what is called a vault, there were 47 tons of sulphur spread out on the floor, over which was placed a tarpauling cover; and upon the top of this cover there were placed 45 tons of nitrate of soda in bags. Now, my opinion is, that the sulphur in this vault took fire—which it would do at a temperature of 500 degrees, or thereabouts. This would set fire to the bags containing the nitre, and some of the nitre would be melted; which, flowing over the burning sulphur, would produce most intense combustion; and this would, in a little time, extend itself to all the sulphur and nitre in the vault. The large quantity of these substances thus deflagrating in a confined space, would necessarily generate an intense heat—more intense, probably, than we can well conceive; and if at this time water, in sufficient quantity, should find its way into the vault, by any means, it would come in contact with the highly incandescent salts, when steam of resistless force would be instantaneously generated; and this would occasion the explosion. It has been suggested that gunpowder was the cause, and eight tons is the maximum quantity that has been named. Now, to compare the force of steam with that of gunpowder, we have the following data:—Mr. Robins, who experimented on gunpowder some years ago, found that 27 grains of gunpowder yielded on explosion 34·6 cubic inches of permanently elastic gas—at which rate one grain of gunpowder would yield 1·28 cubic inches of gas. "We find," says the author of the article "Gunpowder" in the *Edinburgh Cyclopædia*, "that 126·7 of gunpowder generates 169·6 cubic inches of gas;" from which one grain of gunpowder would yield 1·25 inches of gas. This I shall assume as correct. Then 253 grains of gunpowder (the weight of a cubic inch of water) would produce 316·25 cubic inches of permanent gas. But one cubic inch of water, expanded into steam, would

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occupy the space of 1,728 cubic inches. Hence the elastic force of water is to that of gunpowder as 1,728 to 316·25; or as 5½ to 1, nearly. It would therefore require only 3·66 cwt. of water to do the work of one ton of gunpowder. To do the work of 8 tons of gunpowder would be required 29·28 cwt. of water, or 328 gallons, or about 6 hogsheads of 54 gallons each, or about 52½ cubic feet of water.

In reply to questions by the Coroner and others, Mr. Pattinson said he could give no opinion as to the amount of damage which 8 tons of powder or 6 hogsheads of water would do: that was a problem which he could not put to the test of experiment. It would not be by the explosion of the gases given off that the mischief would be done. The gases given off would be sulphuric acid in a state of vapour, sulphurous acid, nitrogen, and probably some gaseous compounds of nitrogen and oxygen; but none of these were explosive—or very slightly so.

Mr. A. S. Stevenson: Would it not be necessary that the quantity of water mentioned should come upon the burning mass at one instant?

Mr. Pattinson: To produce its full effect it would: it should fall on the heated saline mass almost at once.

In a conversation which ensued Mr. Pattinson said that he thought it easy to imagine a state of things in which such an occurrence might take place. A floor might give way, and set free a volume of water. An effect had been produced, and must have a cause. In the absence of gunpowder there could be but one:—and that was water.

By Capt. Du Cane: Could only account for the three smaller explosions, preceding the great explosion, on the supposition that some small quantities o water had got down to the nitre and sulphur, or to one or other of them. The sulphur would greatly increase the temperature of the nitre.

By Mr. Thompson: The aqueous vapour coming in contact with the gases given off by the conflagration of nitre and sulphur, would not cause the explosion.

By Mr. Hymers: The water coming into the intensely heated chamber, an explosion would be caused by the steam—not by the chemical compounds. The explosion would be caused by the conversion into steam of the water which got access to the chamber.

By Capt. Du Cane: Had the water fallen in among sulphur alone, there would have been no explosion. Had tried this experiment thoroughly. You could not produce so high a temperature by sulphur alone. The sulphur volatilized, and passed off.

Mr. Stevenson stated, that almost the only vault in Newcastle which had escaped was one in which they (the Jarrow Chemical Company) had 200 tons of sulphur. The water had got in, but there was no explosion:—not even the doors had been forced open.

Mr. Pattinson: I heated sulphur as hot as I possibly could, and poured water upon it. There was no explosion.

By Mr. Prockter: The vault was covered by a wooden floor.

By Mr. Hymers: If the water were heated, the effect would be somewhat more rapid. The steam would generate more quickly.

By Capt. Du Cane: It would not take a less amount of hot water than of cold to produce the effect. The steam would generate a little more suddenly. Hot or cold, however, the difference would be only infinitesimal. What they had under their consideration was a chamber heated with infinitely greater intensity than any of Messrs. Sowerby & Neville's glasshouse furnaces.

Having answered several other questions, Mr. Pattinson said, in reply to Mr. Hymers, that undoubtedly no one should, after this warning, store bags of nitre in contact with sulphur.

By Capt. Du Cane: Thought there was nothing in the warehouse approximating to gunpowder.

By Mr. Neville: If six or seven tons of gunpowder had been stored in the warehouse in casks, it would have exploded simultaneously.

Capt. Du Cane corroborated this statement from his experience.

Mr. Pattinson said, when a powder mill exploded, with powder in separate apartments, it all went off together, so far as the ear could tell.

Capt. Du Cane said he had little doubt that 8 tons of gunpowder would be sufficient to produce the effects which had been witnessed in Newcastle and Gateshead. He did not think that a larger quantity was used when Bomarsund was blown up.

Mr. Pattinson stated, in reply to Mr. Neville, that the white cloud which followed the explosion would not be steam, but the gases to which he had alluded; and vaporized sulphate of soda would give it density.

Some conversation took place as to the quantity of water thrown out by a fire-engine in a given time. The "practical men"—Mr. Schorey and others—spoke of the immense volumes of water that were thrown into the warehouse for some time before the explosion.

In reply to Mr. Thompson, Mr. Pattinson said the vault in question would be the longest in getting hold by the fire, but when once it took fire it would soon be sufficiently hot.

Mr. A. G. Gray, jun., put a question to Mr. Pattinson, and a difference of opinion arose; when the Coroner said, if any gentleman wished to give evidence, he would be heard on a future day; and that would be better than now entering into controversy.

The jury wishing to have further chemical evidence, the Coroner agreed to make application to the Government to send down a chemist. The name of Professor Faraday was mentioned, but the Coroner said he would make no suggestion—the Government must make its own selection.

It was suggested to the Coroner that a reward should be offered for evidence as to the presence of gunpowder, but the Coroner said he had not the means.

Adjourned to Friday at 10 o'clock.

Friday morning, October 13, the jury viewed the crater in Hillgate; and when the inquiry was resumed at the Townhall, the Foreman (Mr. John Sowerby) intimated to the Coroner their desire that the water should be pumped out, to afford them an inspection to the bottom.

Mr. Hall undertook that this should be done.

Capt. Du Cane suggested that a model of the lower floors of the building should be prepared.

Mr. Hall undertook that, if plans were obtained, this also should be done.

The Coroner said, he would take, to-day, the witnesses who had been summoned to give evidence as to gunpowder; and then they would adjourn to the Felling Chemical Works, where Mr. Pattinson would perform some illustrative experiments. He (Mr. Fa-

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vell) had written to Lord Palmerston, communicating a copy of Mr. Pattinson's evidence, and reqnesting that his lordship would send down a chemist unconnected with this part of the kingdom. Capt. Du Cane, he believed, had also written to the noble lord. (The gallant captain said he had.) He (the Coroner) had likewise suggested the offering of a reward for evidence.

Mr. Thomas Shaftoe Robson, of Wrekenton, coal agent in Gateshead, being sworn, deposed that he knew nothing of gunpowder having been taken to the warehouse in Hillgate. There had been some conversation on the subject in the coal-yard, and a cartman spoke of such a thing. He did not know who he was.

George Errington, of Pipewellgate, wherryman, deposed that he never knew of gunpowder being put nto Hillgate. (The Coroner read a letter concerning him, which he said was not true.) He had said that he had seen gunpowder landed above Tyne Bridge. That was on the Newcastle side. Had seen this six weeks ago. Never told Atkinson he had seen any landed at the warehouse in Hillgate.—By Capt. Du Cane: It was daylight when he saw the gunpowder landed across the river.—By the Coroner: He had said that he wished he knew of any powder beiug landed in Hillgate, and it was a pity but it should be found out. He nearly lost his wife by the explosion. If he had known that there was powder in the warehouse, was it likely he would go and sit in his wherry at Newcastle quay? He would have been more likely to have gone out of the country.—By Mr. Thompson: Had talked with Atkinson about powder since the fire. Never said he had seen any put into Hillgate.—By Capt. Du Cane: Never in his life saw any landed on the Gateshead side of the river.

Edward Errington, of Hillgate, uncle of the preceding witness, never saw powder put into Hillgate. His partner in the craft took gunpowder for Messrs. Greene to Dunston. This was eight years ago. Never told Atkinson he knew anything of powder being landed in Hillgate. Had not been cautioned to say nothing. If he knew anything he would soon tell it. Never told John Atkinson that the last witness took some gunpowder to the premises which exploded about a month ago.

George Marsh: I am a waterman, and reside in Gateshead. I am what is called a powder boatman—that is, I remove gunpowder in a boat made for that purpose for my employers, Bradshaw and Anderson. I never removed gunpowder to the warehouse that exploded in Hillgate. I never, to my knowledge, saw powder put into that warehouse; nor do I know that any other person has put any in. I have taken gunpowder from ships in the Tyne to Mr. Greene's magazine at Dunston. That was about eight years ago. It is about two miles by land from Tyne Bridge, and about a mile and a half by water. I delivered some gunpowder about a fortnight ago on the quay at Elswick. I never told John Atkinson that I knew that gunpowder had been landed at Gateshead.—By Capt. Du Cane: I have never seen any gunpowder, after having been landed on the Newcastle side, taken over to Gateshead. I never landed gunpowder at Newcastle which was to go to Gateshead.—By a Juryman: I don't know why my boat is called a gunpowder boat, except that she has always been used for that purpose, and that she is properly hatched.—By the Coroner: I know another gunpowder magazine at Walker, about three miles down the river.—By a Juryman: I remember taking gunpowder from a ship called the *Gem*, of Leith, to the magazines at Elswick and Walker. I cannot say how long that is since. I also took some from the *William Barker*, of Newcastle, about a fortnight since. Part of that went to Walker and part to Elswick. My boat conveyed the whole of the powder from those two ships. I took about five tons from the last ship. I cannot say how much I conveyed from the *Gem*. I have never been in the warehouse that exploded in Hillgate. My boat will carry as much as 14 tons of gunpowder, but I myself have never carried so much as that in her at one time. All our gunpowder came from Leith.

Bartholomew Cuthbertson: I am a waterman and live in the Church-walk. My house there was not blown down. I never saw George Marsh land gunpowder at Gateshead. I never told John Atkinson that, nor any body else. I never told any one that when standing in Fenwick's-entry in Newcastle I had seen Marsh land gunpowder in Hillgate. I saw Marsh, about a fortnight come Monday, bring gunpowder up the river; but I don't know where he landed it. I was standing in Hillgate on the wharf when I saw Marsh bringing the powder up in his boat. I speak from memory when I say it was a fortnight come Monday.—By a Juryman: I never saw gunpowder landed in Hillgate.

By a Juryman: I never saw gunpowder landed in Hillgate.

Mr. John Atkinson: I am an agent for Hawks, Crawshay, & Sons, Gateshead iron-works. I heard from a waterman at our works, Robert Matthewson, that he had heard that George Marsh said he (Marsh) had delivered gunpowder at Bertram's warehouse in Hillgate. I don't know of my own knowledge that gunpowder was ever put into that warehouse. George Errington, waterman, told me that he knew as much as anybody about the gunpowder stored at Bertram's warehouse at Hillgate. He said that his uncle, Edward Errington, took a quantity of gunpowder there in his wherry a month ago, and that Thomas French, waterman, of Dunston, took a wherry load from the same warehouse about a fortnight ago. George Errington also said that his wife was present in George Marsh's house (since the fire took place) when a man came to caution the latter to say nothing about the gunpowder which he had taken at sundry times to Bertram's warehouse. George Marsh said that he delivered, last week, upon the quay at Elswick, seven tons of gunpowder. Bartholomew Cuthbertson, waterman, said that the week previous to the fire he saw George Marsh delivering a wherry load of gunpowder opposite Fenwick's-entry, at Newcastle. A day or two ago witness made the foregoing statement in writing, in the shape of a letter, addressed to Mr. Schorey, the superintendent of the Gateshead police; and he now reiterated it.

James Taylor: I am a custom house officer, and live at 24, Buxton-street, Newcastle. I have never seen any gunpowder put into the warehouse that exploded in Hillgate, but I have seen gunpowder taken out of that warehouse. I mean Bertram's warehouse; and that was the one that exploded. I cannot say how long that is since, but I saw some taken out on the Queen's birthday and on Ascension day. The Queen's birthday before last was the last time I saw gunpowder taken out there. There were two kegs,

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about 28lb. each, taken out on that occasion. They were taken from the lower part of the warehouse where there was an iron door. It was taken from a vault on the right hand side of the cart entrance to the warehouse. I cannot name the person who gave it out, but George Wilkinson, a marine pensioner, carried it. The warehouseman was then present. Richardson carried it away in a wheelbarrow. I think he said he was carrying it to some of the factories to fire the guns with it. I think he said he was taking it to Hawks's. Richardson is now to be found at the custom-house. He is one of the extra officers there. He lives in Tyne-street. I have been in this warehouse myself hundreds of times on duty, and I have seen kegs of powder go out of it frequently. They all came out of a vault on the right hand side of the entrance. I did not see the gunpowder naked, but they were the very same kegs that I have seen gunpowder exported in, being covered over with matting in the usual way. I never was in the vaults. I have seen the gunpowder brought out. The last time I saw any brought out was about 15 months ago, and that was when Richardson brought it out. I think Richardson fired the guns for purposes of salute, having been brought up in the army. The kegs I saw brought out were full, for I felt the weight of them. I have seen gunpowder taken out of the vault on Ascension days, Waterloo days, and the Queen's birth day; but it was the last Queen's birthday but one that I last saw gunpowder brought out there. I have seen gunpowder taken out of the warehouse perhaps seven or eight times. I think I have seen it taken out once since Mr. Bertram ceased to have anything to do with the premises.—By a Juryman: The door whence the powder was brought out was level with the quay, and had the appearance of a magazine door. That door appeared stronger than the others.

Mr. William Woods said he resided in Newcastle, and was managing director of the Newcastle Fire Office. He was at the east end of Hillgate at the time of the explosion; but just previously he had been near the gateway leading into the warehouse, and had a complete view of the premises. A hose attached to the water-pressure was playing on the flames where he was; and at the other side the North British engine was playing, besides other engines. He particularly marked the effect of the water upon the flames. The fire was so dreadful that he made a remark that it was like playing with a watering pan upon it. He thought water could not accumulate at the gateway, as it would evaporate in steam from the intense heat. He was very desirous of seeing it there. He could give no information relative to gunpowder being there, or to the cause of the accident. The lowest part was on fire before he left, and part of the roof was down. He directed the enginemen to play upon some casks at the left side of the entrance, until he saw there was nothing combustible in them; for he saw one break open, and that did not increase the flames. He then directed the firemen to play higher; and it was his opinion that there could not be any great accumulation of water below. He could not see into the vaults. He knew nothing of the floating engine, but at that time three engines were in full operation on the flames. If the floating engine had arrived he would have known it, because the firemen would have told him. The floor where the gateway was, was on fire; and it burnt like a furnace. The heat was most intense. The interior of the building was on fire before he left. The sulphur drove him away, and he got into a passage, and thence into a room which appeared deserted, when he was knocked down and stunned; but he did not know the cause of it. When he became conscious he heard the *debris* coming down similar to a noise occasioned by the fall of coals from the bottom of a coal-waggon. He also felt something disagreeable, and thought he would be choked. He called out, and two men came to his assistance, and he made his escape. It was his opinion that it was almost impossible 350 gallons of water could suddenly accumulate at the gateway. He was unable to describe the explosion, as he became for a short time unconscious. If water was lodging at the entrance way of the warehouse, he thought he would have seen it before he left.

George Richardson: I am a tide waiter in the custom house at Newcastle, and a pensioner belonging to the Royal Marines. I have had a good deal to do with gunpowder in my life. I understood that Bertram's was the place where the gunpowder was fetched from with which salutes were fired at Hawks's. I was never present when it was taken out. I am speaking as far back as 1838. The powder was brought to me at Hawks's to make cartridges of. I made the cartridges. I was told by the men that the powder came out of Bertram's warehouse. The last time I ever heard of gunpowder being brought from there was in 1838. I don't recollect firing any salutes on the last Queen's birth-day, nor on her birth-day before the last. The last time I fired salutes at Hawks's was on Ascension day in 1838. The men said they got the powder from Hillgate; but, on second thoughts, they did not mention Bertram's in particular. I have never seen any powder in the premises in Hillgate. I know James Taylor of the custom house. He asked me a few days ago whether I thought there was any gunpowder in the premises. I told him that sulphur and saltpetre would never explode in that way. That is all the conversation I have had with him upon the subject. I have never seen sulphur and saltpetre explode. I have seen them mixed and set fire to, and they merely give a large puff and a fume. They never explode. I now recollect telling Taylor that I understood the powder for the salutes at Hawks's came from Hillgate. I never said I had taken any from there myself. I merely told him the men who brought it to me to make the cartridges of said they brought it from Hillgate. I was at the custom house when the explosion took place, I did not smell gunpowder at the time of the explosion, because the wind was the wrong way; but I smelt sulphur strongly after the wind took a turn.—(Percival Smith here reminded the Coroner that the warehouses which exploded were not built in 1838.)

Anthony Hogg: I have a cart and horse of my own on the Quay. I perfectly knew the premises that exploded in Hillgate. I did not lead gunpowder into Hillgate the day before the explosion; nor at any other time to my recollection. I never told Blakey, a shoemaker in the Side, that I had led gunpowder into Hillgate. I have no information to give the jury about gunpowder being on the premises which exploded; but I remember hearing some men say in the fish market, since the fire, that they knew that John Bulman had carted gunpowder to Bertram's warehouse.

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John Blakey deposed that he had heard that Anthony Hogg had led gunpowder into the premises that exploded the day before the explosion; and that he had apprised the authorities of his having so heard.

Thomas Hall: I don't know of any gunpowder having been lodged in the premises that exploded. I knew Peter Brown, and I remember hearing him say to Ralph Faddy, to Charles Hume, and myself, on the morning of the explosion, and just before it took place, that he had assisted in putting some powder into the vaults that exploded. We were then standing looking at the fire from the Quayside. Peter Brown is since dead: he was killed by the explosion.

Charles Hume: I am a labourer on the Quay. About three o'clock on the morning of the explosion I heard Peter Brown say that he was one of three who had put 9 tons of gunpowder into the premises that exploded. I thought it was not true, and I called him a liar. He was then standing beside the Grey Horse public house on the Quay, looking at the fire. A quarter of an hour after he told me that, Brown was killed by the explosion. I did not believe there was gunpowder there, or I would not have remained. After telling me that, he went away immediately up the Quay towards the Sandhill. He did not say he was going, because he was frightened; but he said, "You will hear a bigger crack by and bye, and I'll be going." (Sensation.) He was afterwards found dead in the entry of the Grey Horse public house.

Ralph Faddy: I am a waterman. I was standing with Charles Hume talking to Peter Brown on the Quay on the morning of the fire. Brown said, "Men! what are you standing there for; if you knew what I know you would not stand there." He added that he was one of three who put 9 tons of gunpowder into Bertram's warehouse. Hume offered to bet him five shilings that that was not true, and they "cangled" on for some time. Brown then went away, and his body was afterwards found dead up an entry into which he had been blown by the explosion. I do not know that gunpowder was ever put into the premises.

The inquiry was adjourned, at 2 o'clock, until Wednesday next at 10; and the jury, accompanied by the Coroner and Capt. Du Cane, proceeded to the chemical works of Mr. Pattinson, at the Felling, to witness some experiments bearing upon the investigation, which that gentleman was desirous of making in their presence.

THE EXPERIMENTS.

Mr. Pattinson first caused a metal pot to be inserted in the ground until its top was level with the surface, and having put into it 9 lbs. of nitrate of soda and 6 lbs. of sulphur, he ignited the mass; and then, heating it to the highest possible degree of which it was susceptible, he poured into it about a quart of water. The effect was an immediate explosion (accompanied by a loud clap), which would have been exceedingly perilous to any person in its immediate vicinity. This experiment was repeated under precisely similar conditions, and attended with a precisely similar result. A trial of the same kind, which had been made before the arrival of the Coroner and jury, had been accompanied with the additional effect that the metal vessel which was the subject of it had a hole blown through it in two or three different places.

The series of experiments was next made under different conditions. The pot into which the sulphur and nitrate of soda were put was covered over the top with a large piece of thick metal of considerable weight; and above that again were placed several large pieces of clay and earth. It was deemed necessary to try this experiment in an open field, away from any dwelling-house, and which admitted of the spectators placing themselves at a safe distance from the spot. The materials were then ignited as before; and when in the incandescent state, water was poured upon the mass down a spout. The result was but a comparatively slight explosion, and which scarcely disturbed the iron and clods placed over the mouth of the vessel. Another experiment of the kind was made with the same result. At length, a trial having been made for a third time, but with this difference, that the vessel was covered over the top with another similar vessel, and that the water was poured upon the burning sulphur and nitrate of soda with greater rapidity than before, by slightly elevating the spout, the effect was to blow up the pot on the top into the air to a height of upwards of 70 feet, accompanied by a loud detonation. With this the Coroner and jury became convinced that whether or not the premises in Hillgate contained gunpowder, they contained at all events elements as certainly explosive, and perhaps far more destructive.

NEWCASTLE INQUEST.

On Monday, Oct. 9, an inquest was held by J. G. Stoker, Esq., at Mr. Barron's, Cattle Market Hotel, on the bodies of seven persons lying dead at the Newcastle Infirmary, viz.:—

Ann Laidler, aged 50, of Gateshead.
Mary Kerss, aged 21, Churchwalk, Gateshead.
John Humble, 30, painter, Pilgrim-street, Newcastle.
James Dalrymple.
Lodi Wear, a labourer at the Felling Chemical Works.
Thomas Young.
William Wilkinson.

The jury consisted of Mr. Ebenezer Robson (foreman), and Messrs. John Mawson, G. R. Shield, John Gray, John Dunn, George Bell, Allan Falcus, Thomas G. Morland, Thomas Wallace, Thomas Short, Robert Cooper, John Armstrong, and Charles Septimus Gibson.

The Coroner said, that he did not consider it necessary, at present, to hear any evidence beyond that requisite to identify the bodies of the several persons lying dead. Cases of so serious a nature as those they were called upon to investigate, required some time before the police and other authorities could gather evidence of a satisfactory nature to lay before the jury; and that being so he would ask them to adjourn the inquest until Friday, Oct. 13.

The jury proceeded to the infirmary, and, after viewing the bodies, evidence touching the identity of Mary Kerss, John Humble, and Lodi Wear, was received; after which the inquiry was adjourned until Friday morning at ten o'clock. The other bodies had not then been identified; but the Coroner gave instructions that, as soon as their friends appeared, they were to be removed for interment.

Friday, October 13.—Mr. John Wilson, who slept at the worsted mill, gave evidence as to its destruction by fire. He could throw no light on the cause.

Percival Smith repeated, in substance, the evidence which he had already given in Gateshead.

Other witnesses were examined, and the Coroner adjourned the inquiry until Monday, October 16th, that the jury might have the advantage of Mr. H. L. Pattinson's evidence, and of the evidence to be given by the chemist sent down by the Government.

PUBLIC MEETING IN GATESHEAD.

On Tuesday, Oct. 10, at one o'clock, a meeting was held in the Townhall of Gateshead.

The Mayor, who took the chair, extremely regretted that the duty should have devolved upon him of calling such a meeting. He was sure, however, that

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every gentleman present would have thought him unfaithful to duty if he had not called the inhabitants together on such an occasion. They were all aware that it had been his intention to give, shortly, a dinner and a ball. He had now changed his determination. The dinner and the ball would be dispensed with, and the cost given to the fund for the relief of those who had lost their all. (Applause.)

The RECTOR (Rev. Dr. DAVIES) moved the first resolution:—"That this meeting, deploring the great calamity with which Newcastle and Gateshead have been visited by the fire and explosion in this borough, resolves to join in a public subscription for the relief of the necessitous sufferers." He would not, (he said,) on such an occasion, occupy the meeting at any length. They were all familiar with the words of the poet, when he told them of "sermons in stones;" and he thought the stone before them—(pointing to a fused mass from the fire, lying on the table)—must preach to the meeting a far more impressive sermon on the late calamitous event than any which he (the Rector) was capable of composing. The Doctor, however, pointed to a few of the alleviating circumstances of this visitation — the opening up of sources of philanthropy and kindness, the keeping alive of the principle of benevolence, and the deepening of the sense of our continual dependence upon Providence. He commended the determination of the Mayor to abandon his proposed festivities; and stated that a meeting of ladies had been held at the Rectory to make provision for the relief of the sufferers—in such a way, however, as not to clash with the present proceedings. He had also received a letter from the venerable Bishop of Durham, who, having heard of the calamity, had written to express his sympathy with the sufferers, and to beg that he might be allowed to aid in any effort to be made by Newcastle and Gateshead for their relief. His lordship also alluded to the wreck of St. Mary's church, and tendered his assistance in putting it in a state of regair. (Parishioner, *sotto voce:* It must be rebuilt.) He had also received a note, written by one who wished to contribute his mite, and who enclosed 4s. in "Queen's heads." Certainly, the Queen's head could never be better employed than in contributing to the relief of destitution and suffering; and the gift of the anonymous donor would be well employed in carrying on the correspondence arising out of the present benevolent movement. (Applause.)

Mr. H. G. LIDDELL, M.P., seconded the Rector's motion, and stated that, on Sunday last, the excellent incumbent of Lamesley, losing no time, had taken measures for a public subscription; and his (Mr. Liddell's) venerable relative (Lord Ravensworth), without having his attention called to the subject, had expressed his sympathy with the sufferers from the calamity, and intimated his desire to assist in alleviating their distress. (Applause.) The honourable member, after offering his services as a collector of subscriptions, proceeded to make some very pertinent remarks on the beneficial reaults to be anticipated from this awful visitation. The close alleys which had been destroyed would give place to more spacious thoroughfares, and with improved dwellings there would be an improved population. (Hear, hear.) He had great pleasure in seconding the resolution. (Carried.)

Mr. R. S. NEWALL moved the appointment of Mr. Alderman Hawks, of the District Bank, as treasurer.

Mr. RALPH WALTERS, who had been requested to second the motion, confessed that he saw some difficulty in the contemplated arrangement; doubting whether it would not be desirable that Newcastle and Gateshead should have separate treasurers.

From the conversation which followed it appeared that a disposition existed in Newcastle to form a junction in Gateshead, so that one common fund might be raised for the relief of the sufferers on both sides of the river. The Rev. WILLIAM ATKINSON, Rector of Gateshead Fell, spoke in favour of a union; and Dr. DAVIES lauded the feeling which had prompted the stronger sister to come to the aid of the weaker, Gateshead possessing the majority of sufferers, and Newcastle the majority of wealth. Mr. GEORGE CRAWSHAY thought it might be well to settle the question of a junction at once, so far as Gateshead could do so, and therefore moved that it be an instruction to the committee to be appointed to take steps with a view to a coöperation with the Newcastle committee. The worthy and liberal Mayor of Newcastle, with whom he had been in conversation on the subject, informed him that the subscription would be distributed without regard to the residence of the sufferers. (Applause.) The most liberal and enlightened course would be to amalgamate with the Newcastle committee. Mr. C. stated the many advantages and conveniences which would result from union, and said the Newcastle committee had appointed their first meeting to be held at 4 o'clock that day (Tuesday), purposely to allow the Gateshead committee an opportunity of communicating with them, with a view to combined action. Admiring their generous spirit, he would move that the Gateshead committee be instructed to coöperate. Mr. A. G. GRAY seconded the motion, and said he had received large subscriptions from London for the relief of the sufferers generally; other subscriptions would be sent from a distance for common distribution; and why should they trouble benevolent strangers to sever their bounty? Mr. WALTERS said, he saw great difficulties in the way, if there were to be two committees, neither independent nor united; but if they were amalgamated, and all were to be treated alike, irrespective of residence, he no longer had the slightest objection. Mr. CRAWSHAY said, he was quite willing to substitute the word "amalgamate" for "coöperate;" and with this amendment the resolution was unanimously passed—the MAYOR remarking that Newcastle was acting very handsomely.

The subscription was now started, the MAYOR subscribing £100. His worship also read a note from Mr. C. M. Palmer, stating that Mr. Hutt had a pressing engagement elsewhere, and possibly might not be at the meeting:—he (Mr. Palmer) therefore sent a subscription of £25 on the part of the firm (the Marley Hill Colliery Company). (Applause.)

Mr. A. G. GRAY put down £120, subscribed by several merchants of the city of London; £35, the subscriptions of the men employed by him at the Friars' Goose Chemical Works; and £20, his own contribution. (Applause.)

Mr. CRAWSHAY stated that the workmen employed by himself and partners, at the Gateshead Ironworks, had resolved to subscribe one day's wages. (Applause.) The number was so great, and the wages paid so considerable, that the result would be a handsome subscription. He hoped that other large bodies of workmen would copy the example. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. GRAY said, the proposal was truly liberal, and

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he would not be surprised if the men in his employ were to amend their subscription in consequence. No one, he said, who knew the liberal spirit of the workmen of Newcastle and Gateshead, and, indeed, of all England, would be surprised by the announcement. It were well if their generosity were more generally imitated by the other classes.

Mr. Alderman Joseph Hawks was now appointed treasurer; and Mr. CRAWSHAY moved the appointment of a committee, consisting of the Mayor, the Rectors of Gateshead and the Fell, and Messrs. George Hawks, R. S. Newall, John Greene, Ralph Walters, C. Garbutt, William Brown, George Crawshay, James Pollock, A. G. Gray, James Hewitt, Henry Brady, John Sowerby, R. W. Hodgson, and F. P. Ionn, with full discretionary powers as to the application of the fund.

Mr. JOHN HUNTER seconded the motion, and it was adopted *nem. con.*

Mr. JAMES HEWITT moved the appointment of Messrs. G. J. Kenmir and J. W. Swinburne as secretaries. Seconded by Mr. PETER HAGGIE, and carried.

The Rev. WILLIAM ATKINSON moved the next resolution :—"That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Worshipful the Mayor and Magistrates, to the military, to the public servants of the borough, to the labouring classes, and to all those who have honourably and cheerfully discharged their several duties in this trying emergency; and, while tendering this expression of their gratitude to the military, the inhabitants of Gateshead would also offer their condolence on the lamentable death of Ensign Paynter and Corporal Stephenson, who perished in the cause of humanity."

Mr. GARBUTT (Chairman of the Board of Guardians) seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. NEWALL, it was also unanimously resolved :—"That the sympathy manifested towards this borough on the present occasion by neighbouring communities, and the active and valuable assistance which they have rendered, demand the warmest thanks of this meeting; and they are requested to accept this grateful acknowledgment of kindnesses which will not readily be forgotten."

Mr. CARSE, as a working man, suggested to the committee that applications for relief should be made through the landlords of the sufferers. Such an arrangement would prevent the abuses which had occurred on former occasions. He himself, in connection with the present calamity, had suffered more by plunder than by fire.

The MAYOR said, Mr. Carse's suggestion should have the attention of the committee.

Mr. GRAY said, he had now to propose to the meeting that they should specially acknowledge the services of one who, despising danger, had discharged the obligations of his responsible office like a good Englishman and a good Christian. He would move—"That the thanks of the meeting be given to the Chief Magistrate of this borough—not merely for his services in the chair, but for his prompt appreciation and zealous fulfilment of the duties of his position in connection with this great calamity." (Applause).

The motion was carried by acclamation, and the Mayor returned thanks. He stood there, he said, a monument of the mercy of Divine Providence. He never expected, on the morning of the explosion, to see their faces again; and felt devoutly thankful that he was still present amongst them a living man.

The meeting having broken up, a junction was subsequently effected by the two committees, and the fund for the relief of the sufferers will therefore be one and the same.

"We never had such a day as this before!" Such was the testimony of a railway official on Sunday night, after the last train of visitors had taken their departure from the Tyne. Immense were the numbers of persons that came to Newcastle and Gateshead, from Sunderland and Shields, and from other places, to witness the ruined condition of the two towns. Chiefly they came by rail, but hundreds came by water; and loaded vehicles of all descriptions came in by the turnpike roads.

Our streets were even more thickly thronged than on market-day; but strict order was kept—thanks to the loyal and peaceable character of the English people in general, and to the arrangements of the constituted authorities.

The Mayors (Aldermen Dodds and Haggie) were at their respective posts :—that is, they were everywhere where they were wanted; and the military, police, and special constables kept their appointed guard.

Mingling with the sound of "the churchgoing bell" were heard the clank of fire-engines on land and water, keeping down the Gateshead fire, whose sulphurous fumes still poisoned the atmosphere. Our Newcastle contemporary, the *Chronicle*, gives the following list of the engines :—

Newcastle Fire Office; North British Fire Office; Walker, Parker, & Co.'s; Newcastle and Carlisle Railway Company's; Newcastle Barracks; Hawks & Crawshay's; H. L. Pattinson & Co.'s; one floating engine and three land engines from North and South Shields; one floating and three other engines from Sunderland (one from the barracks, the others from the town). Hexham, Durham, Morpeth, also furnished an engine each; and we believe there were many others from different places and private companies.

Four bodies were taken out during the day from the smoking ruins in Hillgate :—

James Mosley, aged 27, Oakwellgate, Gateshead, (a shacklemaker with Abbot & Co.)

Alexander Dobson, 27, New Bridge-street, Newcastle, (son of John Dobson, Esq., architect).

Thomas Sharp, 27, Summerhill-terrace, Newcastle, (a gentleman of independent circumstances).

Martin Hall, slater, 52, Gallowgate, Newcastle, (a fireman of the North British Office).

It was not previously known that Mosley was in the ruins.

Some sad surmises had arisen that Mr. Dobson and Mr. Sharp, who were missing, had found a grave in the Hillgate cairn. The remains of the latter gentleman were in such a state that identification would have been impossible, had not his gold watch been found with them.

What seemed peculiarly to impress the visitors, almost more than the smouldering ruins on the opposite margins of the river, was the general wreck of property untouched by the fire. From the High Level Bridge they could see the shattered roofs and walls and windows of the houses; and, on a nearer view, they could mark such evidences of explosive violence as the large masses of stone imbedded in Spencer & Capper's front wall on the Quayside. Great, indeed, must have been the impulse which hurled aloft from Hillgate one of those solid oblong

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blocks of granite weighing upwards of 3 cwt., used as "border stones," and flung it high over the Churchwalk, and far beyond the churchyard into Oakwellgate. It grazed the eaves of the old townhall, and pitched headlong down into the railed inclosure in front of the Bird in Bush inn. Near the same spot, a stone, violently dashed into Mr. Easton's stable, instantly killed a horse; and, within a few yards, nine feet of main gas-pipe, torn from its bed, was thrown into the workshop of Mr. George Elliott, plumber.

On Oct. 8, a fire broke out in the premises of Mr. Origoni, toy-merchant, Dean-street, attributed to some smouldering missile from the Hillgate warehouse. But this is mere conjecture. The flames were soon extinguished. A cask of gunpowder was removed from the premises, and several canisters from the adjoining shop. Gunpowder is in great demand in our colliery districts, and we fear that it is extensively kept in store on the banks of the Tyne; although a licensed dealer may lawfully have no more than 200 lbs. on his premises, and other vendors only 50.

Owing to the ruined condition of our mother-church of St. Mary (which will have to be, not repaired, but rebuilt), there could be no public worship therein; so St. Edmund's was in extra requisition; and the calm, quiet march of the Sunday scholars, along the unwonted course of our Back-lane, to divine service, contrasted strikingly with the hurrying to and fro of excited spectators in the valley below.

There was also another contrast.

On the preceding Sunday our places of worship resounded with thanksgivings for the abundant harvest, and the breasts of the grateful worshippers swelled proudly with thoughts of the "great victory" the Allies had gained over their enemies in the Crimea, where thousands upon thousands of human beings, French, and English, and Turks, and Russians, had mingled their blood on the banks of the Alma, and the barbarian army of the Czar had been driven from the field.

A week had elapsed — Sunday had come round again — and, in the interval, our sister communities had been visited by a mighty affliction, the shadow of which had covered the whole land. The same pews were filled by the same worshippers; but how different their aspect! Every heart was chastened by the visitation. Everywhere the handwriting was visible on our walls, and had found interpreters. The emotions of the day of thanksgiving were natural; the gratitude was devout; the exultation sprung from a feeling honourable to our nature and our nation. Still, the refining lesson came not in vain. It brought to our own doors horrors kindred to those of the battle-field, and smote with remorse the hearts which had thought too little of the woes and too much of the glory of war. Voices which had led the psalmody of two Christian congregations—the voices of poor Duke and his son—were now silent; and from every pulpit was heard the solemn moral of our great calamity. Nor was that primary duty of practical Christianity overlooked—the relief of the widow and the fatherless, of the houseless and the needy. Collections were made in several of our churches and chapels, and others are to be made on the 15th. Their amount must be proportioned to the magnitude of the occasion.

The remains of Mr. Charles Duke, foreman to Mr. Edward Bruce, of Gateshead, mason, and of his son, were buried at St. Cuthbert's, on Sunday; and the funeral procession bore testimony to the respect in which Mr. Duke was held. He was a member of the choir of St. Andrew's, Newcastle; and as a sacred musician he will long be missed.

The Gateshead Magistrates met specially on Monday, at noon, to receive Captain Du Cane, R.E., whom Lord Palmerston had appointed to attend the inquest. The gallant captain desired to have plans of the locality in which the explosion occurred, and, in particular, of the manufactory and warehouse; and in this matter his wish had been, to some extent, anticipated. Various rumours and suspicions as to gunpowder having been on the premises in illegal quantities were considered, and the Mayor was advised by the meeting (and consented) to publish a proclamation as follows:—

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

Whereas suspicions are entertained that the recent fearful explosion in Hillgate, in this borough, has been occasioned by *gunpowder*, and whereas it appears to the Magistrates of this borough that the said suspicions should be thoroughly investigated, I, therefore, do hereby request that all persons who can give information touching the storing of any gunpowder, or other explosive matter, in Hillgate, shall immediately communicate with Mr. Schorey, the Superintendent of Police, at the Police Station, Townhall, Gateshead. D. HAGGIE, Mayor.

It was thought that such a proclamation would facilitate the Coroner's inquiry, and, if the rumours should prove to be unfounded, tend to remove the alarm of the inhabitants. It was also resolved that the Magistrates should meet nightly, and give the Mayor their advice and assistance; which, his worship said, would be very acceptable to him. The highest praise was expressed towards the military, the police-forces of both county and borough, and the inhabitants generally, for the great readiness and noble exertions which had been displayed under the distressing circumstances of the case. While commending the Mayor's very proper proclamation, we are led to mention, in corroboration of the popular surmise as to gunpowder, that some years ago, when a fire broke out in the neighbourhood of our office, the whisper ran abroad that there was gunpowder at no great distance, and casks (said to contain that substance) were got out, and hurried off with nervous trepidation, the late Mr. Douglas being one of the foremost and most active in promoting the general safety at hisown peril. Our own opinion is, however, that gunpowder had nothing to do with the explosiod of last week. The *Daily News*, which reaches us while we are writing, severely admonishes the communities of Newcastle and Gateshead on the subject of their toleration of explosive masses in their midst; just as, a year ago, our London contemporaries were rebuking our neglect of sanitary observances.

The aspect of our thoroughfares, during the day, has been of an epidemic complexion. Coffins in our streets, passing to and fro, have deepened the general sadness. Three or four of these were provided for one family, whose bodies, taken out of the ruins, had been laid in the morning in the belfry of St. Mary's church. Samuel Hart, a labourer, lay near his son John, a lad of 12 or 13, and his niece, Mary Ann, a girl of 8 or 9. His wife's remains had not been discovered. Of a family of five, but one had escaped. A bundle, lying on the church floor, served as a record of the closing scene of their lives. They had collected together their worldly goods, and were preparing to flee from their

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home, when the fatal explosion came upon them, and arrested their flight. As we looked upon them, some friends drew up, and, after a scrutiny, one of them said, "Is that little Johnny?" Being told that it was, she burst into a flood of tears.

James Williams, employed in the worsted manufactory, and Sarah Hutchinson, spinster, were dug out during the day.

The remains of Mr. Henry Harrison, jun., (son of our old and respected neighbour, Mr. Henry Harrison, sen.,) who kept a shop at the corner of Mosley and Dean streets, were also found. A bunch of keys was the sole means by which they could be identified. The ashes of many persons were seen in the ruins in Hillgate whose names will never be known.

Great was the anxiety felt by the public to learn "whether any more bodies had been found;" and all day long (as on every day since the explosion) the people have wandered ceaselessly up and down, and as near to the ruins as police and military would permit—strangers being struck by the marvellous architecture of Hillgate and its precipitous banks; whereon, at the census of 1851, four houses were found to contain a population of 52 families and 215 individuals! And yet, even here pleasing traces of English domestic life may be discovered amidst the ruins. In one mean, forsaken room, where the household gods still lingered, we found a print of the poet Bloomfield over the chimneypiece, and on the floor a volume of the *Spectator*.

The desertion of property was a remarkable feature of the occasion. Watches were left hanging on the walls, and money abandoned in the till; and days elapsed before inquiry was made for the valuables.

A handbill made its appearance on Monday, cautioning the public that "arsenic," to the extent of five tons, was in the warehouse at the time of the explosion, and "was burning with the sulphur in the ruins." "The smoke arising therefrom was a deadly poison, and should be avoided as much as possible." How the monitor came to know that the explosion left the arsenic in the ruins, we cannot say; but as, ever since 3 A.M. on Friday, we had been breathing the fumes of the fire, and hundreds of labourers were at work in dense clouds that rose from the burning masses, the "poison" cannot have been very "deadly;" so nobody took any notice of a placard which, had it gained credence, would have put a stop to every effort to remove the rubbish.

"Why don't you Gateshead people get your fire out and your rubbish away?" Such was the taunting interrogatory which saluted our ear on Monday, as we passed a Novocastrian on the Quayside — who turned his back on the Gateshead smoke, and looked proudly on the tidier wreck of his own town. He did not consider that we have no spacious quay in Gateshead, giving access to our riverside property; that the only avenue to the scene of desolation is Hillgate, where two carts cannot pass each other, and which, while we write, is barricaded midway by a mountain of rubbish; and that, moreover, a vast mine of sulphur underlies and pervades the glowing mass, whose fumes poison the atmosphere to a considerable distance, and frequently drive the labourers from their work. It has been arranged, however, since the taunt was thrown out, that the rubbish, or as the newspapers more grandly call it, the *debris*, shall be cast into the Tyne.

The *Courant*, in an edition of Monday, mentioned the identification of a body in the Newcastle fish-market as that of Patrick Mooney. Mooney, who was killed on the Quayside, was employed at Hawks & Crawshay's works in Gateshead. Two of the men of that establishment are among the killed. Our contemporary also alludes to the alleged discovery of living children in the ruins in Gateshead—one of them in a cradle. Such romances abound.

The silver snuff-box of Mr. Charles Bertram, of West-street, was found on Tuesday, in the lane leading down to the river, between the worsted manufactory and the warehouse, near where the remains of Mr. Henry Harrison were discovered. Immediately before the explosion, the Mayor left Mr. Bertram in Hillgate, near the warehouse, requesting him to remain there until he (Mr. Haggie) went up to Churchwalk, to see how matters were going on there. Mr. Bertram said, "Well! let's have a pinch first," and pulled out his snuff-box, offering it to the Mayor; and his worship had hardly got up the bank before the explosion occurred.

The remains of Mr. William Davidson, who was but two or three and twenty years of age, were also found on Tuesday morning, in Hillgate, near the bond warehouse, lying across the remains of a fireman, (James Todd, of the North British brigade). They were identified by means of a finger ring and a purse. Where the two bodies lay in contact the clothing was to some extent preserved; and here the articles were found. The remains were interred the same day.

It is only as by miracle that Mr. William Davidson was the sole member of the family who perished. Mr. Davidson, whose large steam flour mill extended from Church-street and Church-walk to Hillgate, had also a counting-house on the north side of Hillgate, accessible from the mill by a bridge thrown across the narrow street. On this bridge stood Mr. and Mrs. Davidson, Miss Davidson, two sons, and two domestics, (who had come down from their residence on the Windmill Hills to see the fire). Mr. William Davidson was in the street below. When the explosion occurred, the bridge was lifted up by the shock, and then, loosed from its attachments, sunk down and down, until it threw its living freight upon the street! They were now opposite an archway leading into the mill; and, blackened and blinded by the explosion, they made their way by a staircase to an upper floor. Most marvellously they passed in safety the pitfalls of the mill-floor, and escaped into Church-street.

One of the many strangers by whom Hillgate has been traversed since the fatal 6th, passing down the flight of stairs leading from the steps at the east end of the Churchwalk, pried into the noisome dens in his descent, and remarked, almost savagely, to his resident guide—"How *can* you have tolerated such abominations so long? No wonder that Heaven visits you with pestilence and with fire! Your town invites the wrath of God."

The crater of the volcano, so to speak, was one of the spectacles of Tuesday; when, by climbing a pile of smoking ruins, you could look down upon the vast cavity, extending far below the level of the street, which marked the site and attested the magnitude and might of the explosion. From this abyss had been hurled the vast magazine of missiles which had scattered destruction over the two towns, and which had shot down the Quayside structures as if by some

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infernal machine. A mass of iron, weighing at least 6st., crashed through the roof of Mr. Hall, pawnbroker, in High-street, a few doors beyond our office, and fell by the side of a bed in which one of the family was sleeping. A Scotch whinstone, from the pavement in Hillgate, fell through the roof in our yard in which the child Conway was killed; and the mother was also wounded. Her head was dashed with such violence against the wall as to print upon it a picture in blood distinctly representing the *type* which had impressed it. A more eloquent record of the human suffering which has marked the calamity we have hardly seen. The *macled* impression of the ear reveals the downward motion given to the head by the impelling force; and, below, there is the picture of a bloodstained hand. 5½ feet of the main gaspipe from Hillgate fell through the roof of a house in Bell's-yard, Oakwellgate, and plunged into the floor of a lower room, where it stood upright by the side of the inmates in bed. On the opposite side of Oakwellgate, in the Corporation-yard, there fell nearly the whole of an iron pillar, or fender, which had kept guard at the gateway of the warehouse, to protect the masonry from cart-wheels. Its weight would be about a quarter of a ton. It was a portion of this pillar, or its fellow, that entered the house of Mr. Hall. Everywhere our attention has been called to huge projectiles, portions of the terrific shower of the 6th. In the churchyard lies a large cube of freestone, channelled for sewerage purposes, this block having been thrown from the floor of the sewer in Hillgate. Another and sharper mass had ploughed itself a bed in the churchyard; and a still larger fragment, ambitious of a place within the church as a monument of the explosion, had dashed through one of the windows of the clerestory, and fallen with destructive violence among the pews.

THE HORRORS OF FRIDAY MORNING, OCT. 6.

I have not yet seen (says a correspondent) an adequate picture of the horrors of Friday morning; and I despair of being able to supply the deficiency. I was in Grey-street when I first heard of the fire, and went down to the Quayside to witness the spectacle. I sat at a window opposite, on the ground floor, for some hours; when, exactly at 12 minutes past 3 o'clock (the time at which my watch stopped), the gas lights were extinguished. I then heard the explosion. It was not, in my ears, so loud and threatening as it seems to have been in others. It was, to me, a low, booming, swelling sound; but terrific were the consequences. I knew not what had come over me. I was thrown down on the floor, and was at a loss where to turn. Then, the house parted to the roof, and light was visible above; but no escape. In a moment, there was light through the wall, and I passed out—whether by door or window I cannot tell. The Quayside was covered with people lying prostrate on their backs or bellies. Surrounded on all sides by fire and by falling houses, my first impulse was to throw myself into the river. But I turned, and made for one of the chares. There was no passage. I rushed along to Sandgate, and on to the New-road. From head to foot I was as black as a sweep:—my hat was gone—my head bleeding. But my life was saved—I knew not how. I am satisfied that many less fortunate individuals must be lying under the ruins of the Quayside. So long as my own life endures, I shall never forget the horrors of the 6th of October, 1854. I can now realize the earthquakes of Lisbon and Calabria and the destruction of Herculaneum and Pompeii.

THE QUAYSIDE CHARES.

The ruins on Newcastle quay and in the different chares present a singular picture. In the foreground there is, as at Gateshead, little to meet the eye but a mass of blackened rubbish; but, farther back, portions of the houses are left standing in all manner of attitudes. Here, a gable stands alone: there, a house is cut into a section, and presents to the spectator all the domestic arrangements which the unfortunate inmates had made before the catastrophe overtook them. In some parts one end of a house has fallen, leaving the roof half supported by that which still stands, while others are all but utterly demolished.—*Morning Chronicle.*

Some striking Quayside pictures, and views of the ruins generally, have been obtained by our ingenious photographic neighbour, Mr. George S. Brady, whose camera will chronicle the aspect of the catastrophe to latest times.

INFIRMARY PATIENTS.

One poor woman, who had sustained a severe fracture of the ribs, died during Sunday night; and Ellen Short, the cook of Mr. Davison, (the owner of the steam-mill which has been destroyed, and who, besides almost irreparable injuries to himself, has had the great misfortune to lose his son by the calamity,) is sinking fast. The total number of deaths at the infirmary up to this time (Monday) has been seven; and the sufferers by the accident who have received medical and surgical aid from that institution have been 116, of whom 59 are in-patients, and 57 out. The case of Thomas Ferguson, aged 30, one of the former class, is somewhat peculiar. He resides at Elswick, about two or three miles from the scene of the catastrophe, and was in bed, sound asleep, at the time of the explosion. Awoke violently by the concussion, he jumped out of bed, and in doing so dislocated the cap of his knee, and was brought to the infirmary for surgical assistance.—*Morning Post.*

THE LATE ROBERT PATTINSON.

There is a melancholy interest attaching to the fate of Mr. Pattinson, a member of the Newcastle town council, whose death was formerly mentioned. He had been exerting himself for some time to persuade the council to establish a fire-brigade in the town, under their special superintendence, as at present there are only two fire-engines in Newcastle, independent of that kept at the barracks; and these belong to fire insurance companies in the town. He had very recently carried a motion to have a committee appointed to consider the subject, of which he was himself a member; and, anxious to make himself familiar with the working of the present unsatisfactory system, he made it a point to attend every fire which occurred in the town and neighbourhood. His zeal has cost him his life. He had been attending a family anniversary at his father's house (his father's birthday), and had just returned to his own home in Newcastle when the alarm was given, and he at once proceeded to the spot, where he was among the foremost and most active assistants when the buildings fell.—*Morning Chronicle.*

HEROES OF THE HOUR.

Foremost among these we noticed Mr. Craig, of the Highlander Inn, and Mr. Davis, of the Tyne Brewery. Mr. Newton, surgeon, was also present, and aided the authorities by his local knowledge of the network of lanes ramifying between the Quayside front and the Butcher-bank. We observed Mr. Hawks, Mr. B.

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Plummer, and Mr. R. P. Philipson at the point of danger, evincing courage and unembarrassed solicitude. From 4 o'clock on Friday morning until 8 o'clock on the morning of Saturday, Mr. Philipson was, we believe, never absent from the post which he had chosen. His boots were burnt off his feet by scrambling among the hot bricks; and we saw him walking about in a pair of overshoes, which he had probably borrowed from some bystander. We are of opinion, and the conclusion is arrived at by a minute acquaintance with every step in the progress of this great fire, that it is mainly to Mr. Philipson's quiet energy and imperturbable coolness at these times, during which the bravest felt a shade of despondency, that the conflagration was not general in Newcastle.—*Times.*

THE GATESHEAD WRECK.

First, at the east end of Hillgate, and which forms the limit of the eruption, was the well-known vinegar manufactory of Messrs. Singers, which was totally demolished, not by the fire but the explosion; while, proceeding from this point up ths quay, a range of tenemented houses, followed by the exploded bond warehouses, Messrs. Carr's timber-yard, Messrs. Wilson's worsted manufactory, and lastly, the engine manufactory of Mr. Bulcraig, this latter place forming the western limit. Running parallel with these premises, but on the opposite side of Hillgate, commencing with the shop of Mr. Lumsden, grocer, was a large cluster of tenemented houses, occupied by Irish labourers, &c., together with one or two common lodging houses; while the large and once flourishing flour mill of Mr. Davidson was closely contiguous. These, from their proximity to the worsted mill and bond yard, received the full force of the concussion; some of which fell, others were unroofed, while some, with the flour mill, were consigned to the flames, burying unhappily among the ruins a great number of their helpless inmates. Then the houses in Church-walk, situated on the brow of the embankment, were, without a single exception, so shattered and demolished as to be no longer fit or safe for human habitation. Mr. Martin Dunn, builder, possessed considerable property in this locality, which is nearly all destroyed. It seems, from appearance, that this bankside must have received the weight of the first burst of the concussion, as the houses were not only shattered from their foundation, but it may be said that some hundreds of spectators viewing the fire were violently thrown to the ground, while several were even carried into the burial ground of St. Mary's church, dreadfully injured and insensible. It was at the same moment that a large black cloud was observed to rise perpendicularly to a great height from the place beneath, and, suddenly bursting, quantities of burning timber and other matter were thrown far and wide. The conflagration thus occasioned spread itself over Gateshead with immense rapidity; and part of it, by the wind's current, being thrown over the river, fell upon the roofs of the houses in Grinding-chare, and thence onward to George's-stairs, speedily set fire to the premises, and was the cause of the destruction of property on the Quayside.

But, to return, let the reader come with us from the Church-walk to the premises a short way beyond Bulcraig's engine-works; and here another disastrous scene presents itself. The property at this place forms the left side of Bridge-street, from Tyne Bridge up to Hillgate; and, as the back of these premises consisted of numerous factories, among which was the large hat establishment of Messrs. Anderson & Miller, nothing could describe the bulged and tottering condition more forcibly than comparing them to having been subjected to some heavy cannonade, while the valuable commodities within them were laid waste by the same ruinous process. Adverting next to the front of Bridge-street, and also Church-street, up the hill to the High-street and the Half Moon-lane, all the shops and house windows present one dismal evidence of the common shock which had overtaken this bustling thoroughfare in one single night. But, in order to convey some general idea, we will enumerate the majority of shops, &c., which have received considerable damage. First, in Bridge-street, are the shops of—

Mr. Blenkinsop, linendraper.
Mr. Debenham, grocer and teadealer.
Mr. Aitchison, baker.
Messrs. Osborne & Harrison.
Mr. Scott, publican, Half Moon.
Messrs. Anderson & Miller, hatters.
Mr. Clark, linendraper.
Mr. Atkinson, grocer and tea dealer.
Mr. Hogg, wine and spirit merchant.
Messrs. Mather & Reed, hardwareman.
Mr. Garbutt, chemist and druggist.
Mr. Paley, Queen's Head inn.
Mr. Dobson, butcher.
The George and Dragon
Mr. Cook, the Blue Bell.
Mr. Watson's tea warehouse.

In Church-street, the extensive mill of Mr. Davidson is a complete ruin, from the combined effects of the explosion and fire.

Mr. Walker's, Victoria public house.
Mr. Wilkinson, hairdresser.
Mr. Balliol, herbal medicine retailer.
Mr. Harrison, tailor.
Mr. Davidson, grocer and teadealer.
Mr. Brown, butcher.
A large range of tenement property opposite, from the foot of Bottle Bank upwards to the Goat inn, greatly damaged.
The Goat public house, together with brew-house and stable, unroofed.
Mr. Rutter's brandy vaults.
Mr. Rosenbohm, pawnbroker.
Mr. Crow, shoemaker.
Mr. Hamilton, hairdresser, (killed).
Mr. Brett, tailor.
Mr. Atkinson, dyer.
Mr. Bell, grocer and teadealer.
Mr. Greene, property in High-street.
Miss Murray's hotel in High-street, besides other property beyond.
The *Observer* printing office.

The whole of Cannon-street, situate on the south side of St. Mary's churchyard, may be said to be from end to end a mass of ruins—the Cock inn, Mr. Guthrie's, Mr. Green's, and Mr. Scott's property within it suffering more than all the rest. The shop of Mr. Snowball, linendraper, Bottle-bank, also suffered greatly.—*Newcastle Courant.*

THE CUSTOM HOUSE.

Her Majesty's custom-house, and all its important contents, were in the greatest jeopardy; but by the promptness and energy of Mr. Browne, the chief clerk, the building in the course of a couple of hours was emptied, and all the muniments of the establishment were deposited in a place of safety.

MONEY TEST OF PUBLIC INTEREST.

How great was the anxiety of the people to see the scene of the conflagration, and how extraordinary was the influx of strangers into the town on the first days

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of the calamity, may be estimated from the fact that the sum collected in halfpence, from passengers along the High Level-Bridge, on the three days of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, amounted to more than £200, exclusive of the toll collected from carriages.—*Morning Chronicle.*

CRATER OF THE HILLGATE VOLCANO.

The workmen still continue their exertions to clear away the ruins, but it is slow work. The mass of rubbish is immense, and the fumes arising from it are detrimental to health. They have, however, cleared away enough of the *debris* to allow of access to the spot where the explosion occurred, which presents a striking resemblance to the crater of a volcano, the rubbish thrown up having assumed in a very remarkable manner the shape of an inverted cone, of which the apex is formed by the vault of the warehouse where the sulphur and nitre were represented by the agent *for* the works to be lying side by side. Standing upon the edge of this crater, (which one can only do for a minute or two at a time,) the bottom is covered by a dense and stifling vapour, completely filling the area. This is occasionally blown aside by a breath of wind, and then the bottom is discovered—a pool of water caused by the engines, on which large masses of burnt sulphur are floating: while all along the sides of the cone are broken rafters, burst barrels, and a large quantity of loose stones, the pulverized portions of the pile which lately occupied the spot. It is but a short time that the spectator has to gaze, for the mephitic vapours speedily obscure the view, or the atmosphere is so stifling that he is speedily forced to retreat. It is a scene, however, which no one who has seen, but for a moment, will ever be likely to forget.—*Morning Chronicle.*

THE FIRE OFFICES.

The losses of the several companies by *fire*—(we can say nothing on the vexed question of *wreck by explosion*)—approximates to about the following sums, making in all (say) £100,000.

The Newcastle	£20,000
The County	20,000
The North British	15,000
The Royal Exchange	7,000
The Leeds and Yorkshire	7,000
The Norwich	4,500
The General	4,500
The Essex Economic	4,000
The Imperial	4,000
The Anchor	4,000
The Sun	2,400
The National Provincial	1,500
The West of England	500
The Liverpool Royal	400
The London Assurance	200

MISCELLANEOUS INCIDENTS.

One of the Gateshead shutters is said to have been blown over to the Sandhill, Newcastle, where it knocked a man down.

Alnwick held a meeting on Thursday (William Dickson, Esq., in the chair), when a subscription was set on foot for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire and explosion.

The funeral of Ensign Paynter, 26th Cameronians, aged 18, took place at Jesmond Cemetery, on Tuesday. He was son of Mr. Paynter, the Hammersmith magistrate, and nephew of Mr. Moody, M.P. for West Somerset.

Awoke by the shock of the explosion, a man and his wife, living over the Pit-entry, Gateshead, sat up on end in bed, and a large stone fell through the roof, and dropped between them on the pillow. It made its way through bed and floor to the open entry.

Peter Brown, who was standing on the Quayside at the time of the explosion, rushed up the Dark-entry into Grindon-chare, and perished. He is reported to have said to a person near him, "There goes the nitrate—the powder will follow." Such stories have all the week been as plentiful as blackberries.

In Oxford-street, Newcastle, a lady fainted in bed, under the impression that the "enemy" had landed. One of the braver sex, running in hot haste along the street, was accosted with an inquiry as to "what was the matter." "The Russians! the Russians!" he exclaimed "the Russians have landed!" ☞ He was running away from the coast!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GATESHEAD OBSERVER.

SIR, — As every legitimate means ought to be devised to raise funds to relieve (permanently if possible) those numerous poor persons who have most suffered from the recent calamitous fire and explosion in the devoted towns of Gateshead and Newcastle, it might be suggested that, besides local expedients, perhaps the most efficient and simple mode of raising a large sum for so benevolent an object would be a *Queen's Letter* addressed to all the churches in England—commonly called a *Brief*—setting forth the facts of the case in as concise a manner as possible. An appeal of this kind to all the churches, on a set Sunday, could not fail to raise, in the 16,000 or 17,000 parishes in England, a sum amounting to probably one hundred thousand pounds.

2,000 churches	averaging	5s. =	£500
4,000	"	£1 =	4,000
7,000	"	5 =	35,000
1,000	"	20 =	20,000
1,000	"	50 =	50,000
15,000 churches			£109,500

Hoping the mode here suggested is as practicable as it used to be for relieving distress of a singularly marked character, I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. J.

SIR,—Will you please, in your next number of the *Observer*, to correct a mistake that has been made by some of our neighbouring journalists.

This is not the *third* time, as they state, that our factory has been on fire, but the *second*, and not three only, but four years, since it took place before.

Our estimate of loss, &c., is as follows:—

Value of mill, warehouse, and land on which they stood	£2,000
Steam engine, shafting, and machinery	1,000
Stock in mill and warehouse	£500 to 600
Stock in skinnery	£500 to 600
Insurance upon the whole	£2,000

I may also add, that we are quite solvent, and able to pay all our creditors in full.

When the explosion took place, my eldest son and I, with a few of our workpeople, were in a workshop connected with the skinnery, which was blown down, and for a while buried us in the ruins. One of my own men was killed upon me; another close by my son; a third had his thigh broken; whilst the rest of us escaped comparatively unhurt.

The shock was immediately preceded by something like a shower of small stones upon the roof, to which

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my attention was called, and which I said must be some of the firemen getting up with a hose; when, the next moment, the building was thrown down upon us, followed by a shower of stones and burning sulphur; we not having heard the report, nor known what had taken place.

I am, dear Sir, yours most respectfully,
JAMES WILSON.

Windmill Hills, October 12, 1854.

SIR,—At a time when Newcastle and Gateshead are still smarting from the effects of the late terrible disaster, it seems to me a fitting opportunity of calling the attention of the public to an instance of gross and wilful neglect surpassing in enormity any which has yet been supposed in the Hillgate explosion.

At Walker, that same Corporation which is taking such an active and praiseworthy part through its executive in investigating the cause of last week's accident, is in the habit of keeping, or allowing to be kept, a quantity of gunpowder, sometimes as much as 20 tons, in a situation the eligibility of which you may appreciate from the following facts:—

The magazine is the centre of a village or villages containing about 3,000 inhabitants, the nearest house (of course subject to fire like others) almost touching it. The distance from the magazine to the ironworks of Messrs. Losh, Wilson, & Bell, where there is a daily consumption of 400 to 500 tons of fuel, is about 30 yards—there being, besides, only about 100 yards from it to the last of a row of coke-ovens and blast furnaces.

In front of the place are public moorings used by numerous vessels.

It is no exaggeration to say, that any casualty—which might easily happen, from the explosion of a boiler, or pieces of burning matter from a furnace in the ironworks—would cause a destruction of property equal to that in Gateshead, and a loss of life probably greater.

This matter has been more than once brought before the notice of the parties in power, but without any prospect of redress. If you, Sir, through the medium of your influential columns, can offer any suggestion as to the next steps to be taken, it will be gratefully listened to by all who are concerned, either personally or as the friends of humanity.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
Newcastle, October 12, 1854. G. R.

SIR,—Like many others, I attended the court on Wednesday, Oct. 11, held at Gateshead, to inquire into the cause of the late terrific explosion which has spread destruction and death on all sides. More particularly was I anxious to hear the evidence of Mr. Hugh Lee Pattinson, who, as a practical chemist, most deservedly stands high in his profession. On hearing Mr. Pattinson in the first part of his evidence, I was very much delighted; and the experiments which he had tried, to elucidate the cause of the explosion, were, I think, as striking as it was possible for them to be. Every one in the court seemed to feel the force and applicability of his experiments to the question at issue; but the conclusion to which Mr. Pattinson came from those experiments, produced, I think I may say generally, a very different result. I have not found one person who believes in Mr. Pattinson's theory that *steam* was the cause of the explosion. Indeed, it was most evident from the questions that were put, and the decision of the jury to ask for a chemist from London, and to request the Government to offer a reward, that they did not believe in steam as being the agent whereby the explosion was caused.

It is with every respect to Mr. Pattinson I would now attempt to call the attention of the public to an agency in explosions, which is not new, and which, in my opinion (failing to establish the existence of gunpowder on the premises), might be the instrument in this case. I believe that water and heat are the primary causes; but that steam is the immediate cause, under the circumstances, with all due deference to Mr. Pattinson, I cannot believe. Assuming that Mr. Pattinson is correct as regards the large quantity of nitrate of soda and sulphur in the vault or vaults on fire, my opinion is, that the admission of a very small quantity of water would cause this explosion, not by the water being converted into steam, but by its being *decomposed*, and thus liberating the hydrogen and oxygen of the water, and exposing them to flame, the explosive powers of which, when thus freed, and thus found together, are so well known to all operative chemists. These, it is well known, are the agents by which many steam boilers have been lifted from their seats, and carried like balloons into the air. The water of the boiler getting lower than the fire reaches, that part of the boiler gets red hot, which decomposes the water, producing the above-named gases, and thus, it is universally believed, a great number of boilers have been exploded.

In my conclusions I may be wrong, but I must contend that probabilities are much more in favour of hydrogen and oxygen as being the agents, than steam—as a mere fractional quantity of water would produce immense effects, and hydrogen and oxygen, when fired together, give a much louder report in an unconfined space than anything known, with the exception of fulminating gold or silver.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Gateshead, October 12, 1854. JOHN FAWCETT.

FIRE:—CAUTION.

WHEREAS, it having been ascertained that persons have been going about Newcastle, Gateshead, and elsewhere, soliciting Donations, under pretence of relieving those who have suffered by the late Fire and Explosion, this is to give Notice, that such applications are unauthorized, and it is hereby requested that information may be given to the Police of any one thus endeavouring to practise deception. Subscriptions having been entered into, and a Committee appointed both in Newcastle and Gateshead, for relieving the distress occasioned by the late lamentable occurrence, individuals disposed to assist are respectfully requested to pay their contributions into the Banks, to the undersigned, the Treasurers, or any Member of the united Committees.

Cases requiring aid will be considered on being made known to the Relieving Officers of either of the two towns.

RALPH DODDS, Mayor of Newcastle.
DAVID HAGGIE, Mayor of Gateshead.
Oct. 11, 1854.

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PUBLIC MEETING IN GATESHEAD.

AT a PUBLIC MEETING of the Inhabitants of the BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD, held in the Town Hall, on TUESDAY, October 10, 1854, at One o'clock, to consider the best Means of affording RELIEF to the SUFFERERS by the calamitous FIRE and EXPLOSION which has occurred in this Town (the MAYOR OF GATESHEAD in the Chair), the following Resolutions were carried by acclamation :—

On the motion of the Rev. Dr. DAVIES,
Seconded by H. G. LIDDELL, Esq., M.P.,

1. That this meeting, deploring the great calamity with which Newcastle and Gateshead has been visited by the late awful fire and explosion in this borough, resolves to join in a public subscription for the relief of the necessitous sufferers.

On the motion of GEO. CRAWSHAY, Esq.,
Seconded by ALEX. GEO. GRAY, Esq.,

2. That the Committee to be appointed be instructed to meet the Newcastle Committee, with the view of effecting an amalgamation with them.

On the motion of GEO. CRAWSHAY, Esq.,
Seconded by RALPH WALTERS, Esq.,

3. That a Committee be appointed to carry out the objects of this meeting, consisting of—

The Mayor,	Alexander George Gray,
The Rev. Dr. Davies,	Henry Brady,
The Rev. W. Atkinson,	John Sowerby,
Alderman Hawks,	R. W. Hodgson,
John Greene,	F. P. Ionn,
R. S. Newall,	C. Garbutt,
George Crawshay,	Ralph Walters,
James Hewitt,	William Brown,

With power to add to their number; that the Committee do take such measures as may seem to them proper in the application of the funds; and that Messrs. G. J. KENMIR and J. W. SWINBURNE be requested to act as Hon. Secretaries.

On the motion of R. S. NEWALL, Esq.,
Seconded by HENRY BRADY, Esq.,

4. That Alderman HAWKS, of the Northumberland and Durham District Bank, be requested to act as Treasurer.

On the motion of the Rev. W. ATKINSON,
Seconded by C. GARBUTT, Esq.,

5. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Worshipful the Mayor and Magistrates, to the military, to the county police, to the public servants of the borough generally, to the labouring classes, and to all those who have honourably and cheerfully discharged their several duties in this trying emergency; and, while tendering this expression of their gratitude to the military, the inhabitants of Gateshead would also offer their condolence on the lamentable fate of Ensign Paynter and Corporal Stephenson, who perished in the cause of humanity.

On the motion of A. G. GRAY, Esq.,
Seconded by Dr. DAVIES,

6. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Chief Magistrate of this borough, not merely for his services in the chair to-day, but for his prompt appreciation and zealous fulfilment of the duties of his position in connection with this great calamity.

On the motion of GEO. HAWKS, Esq.,
Carried by acclamation,

7. That the sympathy manifested towards this borough on the present occasion by neighbouring communities, and the active and valuable assistance which they have rendered, demand the warmest thanks of this meeting; and they are requested to accept this grateful acknowledgment of kindnesses that will not readily be forgotten.

On the motion of R. S. NEWALL, Esq.,
Carried by acclamation,

8. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Mayor, Magistrates, and other authorities of Newcastle, for the prompt and effective assistance rendered by them on this occasion.

D. HAGGIE, Mayor.

The following Subscriptions have since been announced :—

The Mayor of Gateshead	£100	0	0
Messrs. Hawks, Crawshay, & Sons	200	0	0
R. S. Newall, Esq.	50	0	0
Charles Liddell, Esq., per R. S. Newall, Esq.,	50	0	0
Messrs. Haggie Brothers	50	0	0
Messrs. John Greene & Sons	50	0	0
The Workmen of the Friars Goose Chemical Works	35	0	0
William Hutt, Esq., M.P.	25	0	0
The Marley Hill Coal Company	25	0	0
Ralph Walters, Esq.	25	0	0
The Rev. Dr. Davies, D.D.	20	0	0
Alexander George Gray, Esq.	20	0	0
Messrs. Sowerby & Neville	20	0	0
R. W. Hodgson, Esq.	20	0	0
G. B. Wharton, 8, Lincoln's Inn Fields	20	0	0
Charles Bulmer, Esq.	15	15	0
William Brown, Esq.	10	10	0
Wylam's Steam Fuel Company	10	10	0
The Hon. H. G. Liddell	10	0	0
G. J. Kenmir, Esq.	10	0	0
The Rev. William Atkinson	10	0	0
John Barras, Esq.	10	0	0
Messrs. John Barras & Co.	10	0	0
Joseph Garnett, Esq.	10	0	0
J. W. Swinburne, Esq.	10	0	0
C. J. Pearson, Esq.	5	5	0
Messrs. Doeg & Skelton	5	5	0
Henry Brady, Esq.	5	5	0
William Robinson, Esq.	5	5	0
John Hopper, Esq.	5	5	0
W. J. Depledge, Esq.	5	5	0
F. Depledge, Esq.	5	5	0
Messrs. Mather & Reed	5	0	0
James Hewitt, Esq.	5	0	0
William Walker, Esq.	5	0	0
T. H. Apedaile, Esq.	5	0	0
John Charlton, Esq.	5	0	0
Mr. Tweddell, per Mr. Mayor	5	0	0
John Hunter, Esq.	5	0	0
Fellows & Reddan, Dudley	5	0	0
Mr. Alfred Debenham	5	0	0
Matthew Thompson, Esq.	4	4	0
Francis Bennett, Esq.	3	3	0
Messrs. C. Garbutt & Son	3	3	0
Messrs. John Vickers & Son	3	3	0
J. S. Forster, Esq.	3	3	0
Mr. Ramsay, per Mr. Mayor	2	2	0
William Kimpster, Esq.	2	2	0
Mr. John Golightly	2	2	0
Mr. Benjamin Matchitt	2	2	0
John Watson, Gateshead	2	2	0
Clerks in the Law Fire Office, London	1	15	0
The Rev. Thomas Speck	1	1	0
The Rev. S. A. Herbert	1	1	0
The Rev. F. G. Holmes	1	1	0
The Rev. R. Cooke	1	1	0
Mr. Rowland	1	1	0
Mr. J. Atkinson	1	1	0
Mr. James Clephan	1	1	0
Mr. G. H. Fedden	1	1	0
Mr. F. P. Ionn	1	1	0
Mr. G. R. Cox	1	1	0

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The Widow's Mite	1	0	0
Mr. Alfred Legge	0	10	6
Mr. Joseph Anderson	0	10	0
Mr. John Fawcett	0	10	0
Several Merchants of the City of London, per Alexander George Gray, Esq., viz. :—			
William Candery, Esq., Fenchurch-street, London	10	10	0
W. F. Bonner, Esq.	10	10	0
Messrs. W. & T. Jones & Co., Gracechurch-street	10	10	0
Messrs. G. J. Ashton & Co., Mark-lane	5	5	0
Henry Batchelor, Esq.	5	5	0
Messrs. D. Taylor & Sons	5	5	0
L. Heinemann, Esq., Fenchurch-street	5	5	0
H. G. Gray, Esq., Mincing-lane	5	5	0
Messrs. Kingsford & Swinford, Fenchurch-street	5	5	0
G. J. Vondadilozen, Esq., Threadneedle-street	5	5	0
Messrs. Lewis, Reis, & Co, Austin Friars	5	5	0
William Leask, Esq., Eastcheap	5	5	0
Messrs. Drew, Heyward, & Barron, Bush-lane	5	5	0
Messrs. McLean, Maris, & Co., Abchurch-lane,	5	5	0
Francis Ridley, Esq., Canonburg	5	0	0
William Harvest, Esq., Queen-street-place	3	3	0
D. Harvest, Esq.	3	3	0
A Friend	3	3	0
Osgood Field, Esq., Scott's-yard, Bush-lane	2	2	0
Edward Goiby, Esq., Shoreditch	2	2	0
Messrs. Bennett & Richards, King William-street	2	2	0
J. C. Rohrweger, Esq., Fenchurch-street	2	2	0
Messrs. Stone & Mann, Lime-street	2	2	0
—— Hirch, Esq., G. T. & D.	1	1	0
G. Eocestein, Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs. Goodlake & Nutter, Cornhill	1	1	0
W. H. Pinkerton, Esq.	1	1	0
George Gabain, Esq.	1	1	0
W. A. Godts, Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs. Lister & Biggs	1	1	0
John Ellis, Esq., Martin's-lane	1	1	0
Merchants of the City of London, per A. G. Gray, in addition to former list	80	0	0

THE GATESHEAD INQUEST.

THE inquiry into the death of Policeman Scott and others, destroyed by the explosion of the 6th Oct., was resumed on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at the Town-hall, (the foreman and other jurymen having previously visited the Felling Chemical Works, and witnessed further experiments).

There were present — Capt. Du Cane; the Mayor (David Haggie, Esq.); James Pollock, William Hymers, and Ralph Wake, Esqrs., Borough Magistrates; the Town Clerk (G. J. Kenmir. Esq.); and other gentlemen. The court, however, was no longer crowded.

The Coroner stated that Mr. Schorey, the superintendent of police, had laid before him a considerable amount of information, since the adjournment, bearing upon the question whether or not the explosion was caused by gunpowder. It did not comprise an atom of evidence that the warehouse contained gunpowder at the time of the explosion. If any such evidence should come to his knowledge, the jury might rely upon his bringing it before them. Their request that a chemist, a stranger in this district, should be sent down by Government to give evidence, and also their suggestion as to a reward, had been communicated to the Home Secretary, from whom he had received the following reply :—

Whitehall, 16th October, 1854.

SIR,—I am desired by Viscount Palmerston to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst., and its enclosure, relative to the recent calamitous fire in Gateshead; and I am to inform you that, in pursuance of the request made by yourself and the jury, a chemist of scientific attainments will be sent by Lord Palmerston to Gateshead, to make the necessary experiments. But as to the application for a reward, I am to state that the Government are in the habit of offering a reward for the discovery of persons who may have been guilty of an atrocious crime; but in all such cases the commission of the crime has been a notorious fact, and the thing to be discovered has been the name and description of the perpetrator. In the present case Lord Palmerston is asked to offer, on the part of Government, a reward for the purpose of ascertaining whether an offence has been committed. This would be a departure from established practice, and would be attended with inconvenience, and cannot therefore be done.

The name of the chemist selected by Lord Palmerston will be communicated to you by this day's post, if possible. If not, by telegraph to-morrow.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. M. Favell, Esq., &c. H. WADDINGTON.

P.S. It appears that at this season there will be some difficulty in finding in London a chemist of eminence who will undertake the inquiry; and as some days may elapse, you may perhaps find it necessary to adjourn the inquest.

Mr. Pattinson (the Coroner added) would again give evidence, but not at present. He was making further experiments, and would state the result on the day to which the court might adjourn; when, also, the Government witness would be examined. Perhaps the jury would consult together, and say whether Wednesday or Thursday in next week would be the most convenient day for their next meeting.

The Foreman (Mr. John Sowerby), after consulting his colleagues, announced that Thursday would suit them best.

There was now a short conversation, originating in a question put by Mr. Prockter, as to whether there was any chamber below the warehouse vaults — "in the deep a lower deep." It did not appear, however, that there was any plan extant for the settlement of the question.

The Coroner said, he would now take the evidence of Mr. Haansbergen, of Newcastle, who had goods in the warehouse at the time of the explosion.

William John Van Haansbergen : I produce a list of the goods which I had in the Hillgate warehouse at the time of the explosion. Deposited in No. 42 ground-floor, 562 bags of nitrate of soda, weighing 51 tons 4 cwt. 3 qr. 12 lb. : in No. 60, under staith, 317 bags of nitrate of soda, weighing 31 tons 15 cwt. 3 qrs. 4 lbs. : in No. 1 vault, 465 bags of nitrate of soda, weighing 44 tons 19 cwt. 1 qr. 2 lbs; total, 127 tons 19 cwt. 3 qr. 18 lb. In the second flat of No. 138, and in No. 60, above vault, together 311 tons 2 cwt. sulphur. I am not aware that any gunpowder was in the warehouse.

By Mr. Hymers : I had no keys to the warehouse myself. The warehouseman had access to my goods at discretion.

By Mr. Prockter : Gunpowder might be stored in the warehouse without my knowledge.

By Capt. Du Cane : The sulphur was stored for sale to the chemical works. They consume large quantities—about 500 tons per week.

Mr. Schorey was recalled, that the Coroner might have upon his notes the names of the deceased persons found since the opening of the inquest. Mr. S. read from his list the following :—

Found on the 8th of October.

Alexander Ralph Dobson, architect, Newcastle, aged 25.
James Mosley, smith, Gateshead, 24.

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Mary, daughter of Benjamin Bewick, smith, Gateshead, 9.
Thomas Sharp, retired farmer, Newcastle, 27.
Martin Hall, fireman, Newcastle, 52.

On the 9th of October.

Sarah Hutchinson, spinster, Gateshead, 65.
James Weallans, worsted weaver, Gateshead, 28.
Samuel Hart, labourer, Gateshead, 44.
Mary Ann Hart, his niece, 9.
John Hart, his son, 13.
Henry Harrison, basketmaker, Newcastle, 34.

On the 10th of October.

William Davidson, millwright, Gateshead, 22.
James Todd, fireman, Newcastle, 22.

MISSING.

Charles Bertram, Borough Magistrate, Gateshead.
Mary Hart, wife of Samuel Hart.
Charles Hamilton, nephew to Charles Hamilton, hairdresser, (one of the killed).

Mr. Schorey added, in reply to the Coroner, that he believed that ten or eleven had died in Newcastle Infirmary, besides those who were killed in that town on the spot. The total number on his own list, exclusive of the missing, was 24, all of whom had been identified.

Evidence was now adduced to connect certain relics, found upon the spot, with the late Mr. Bertram.

Frederick Lunn: I am a brushmaker in Newcastle. I searched among the ruins after the explosion, assisting others. I found this silver snuff-box and door-key. They were close together. I found them near Mr. Davidson's mill, beyond the archway, at the east corner, on Sunday morning, the 8th inst. They were in Hillgate. The box was all black. One of the firemen, named Hall, wished to have it from me. He got some small keys from me, which I have not been able to get back again. He now says he has lost them.

Charles James Bertram: I am son of Charles Bertram, a magistrate of Gateshead. My father was called by the police to go to the fire in Hillgate on the morning of the 6th inst. He went about a quarter to two. He had this snuff-box with him, (the one produced by Lunn). This is like our door-key—I believe it be ours. My sister and the servant were satisfied on trial that it was our key. My father has not returned since.

The Coroner said he would next take evidence as to the origin of the fire.

Walter Scott: I live in Gateshead, and am a member of the police force. About half past 12 o'clock, a week gone Thursday night, John Ewart, a policeman of Newcastle, came to me in Hillgate, and said there was a fire. It was in Hillgate. We were close beside it at the time. Ewart had seen it from Newcastle. I told him to go for the water-engines. He said he had sent off one of the Newcastle men for them before he came across, and had also sent one of our policemen to tell Mr. Schorey. The fire was in Mr. Wilson's worsted manufactory. We broke the door in. The inhabitants about, and myself, carried a deal of worsted out. The fire was on the side next the water, in the lower part of the building. We carried the goods into the mill archway. The fire extended, and while we were so occupied Mr. Schorey came. The engines might be half an hour or three-quarters in coming. Two engines came. The fire extended to what is commonly called Bertram's warehouse. It caught that warehouse between half-past 1 and 2. That would be better seen from the other side of the water. Mr. Wilson came to the spot about 1 o'clock. I was not aware at the time that any one slept in the building. I know nothing of the origin of the fire. The engines, so far as I can judge, were properly worked; and Mr. Wilson and others did all in their power to extinguish the flames. I can tell nothing more about the matter.

By Mr. Hymers: Immediately we broke in the door we saw the fire. It was on the flat we were on, level with Hillgate, on the side next the river.

By Capt. Du Cane: It was burning fiercely, and seemed to have been on a little bit.

By Mr. Prockter: I did not see anything of Mr. Wilson for about half an hour after we broke open the door.

By Mr. Prockter: The fire was coming from the centre, right opposite the door.

By Capt. Du Cane: There was not much wind at the time.

By the Coroner: The wind was in the west, and would blow the fire towards the warehouse.

By Mr. Prockter: The fire was rapidly proceeding upwards from the flat we were in. I could not see if it was burning on more floors than one. The fire was nearly anenst the water when we first saw it. We had to go right into the building before we could see it.

The next witness examined was Mr. James Wilson, who produced plans of the building, and deposed:—My nephew, John Wilson, slept on the premises on the night of the fire. I live, myself, on the Windmill Hills. I have no doubt that the fire of the 6th inst. broke out on our premises in Hillgate. My brother John and I are the owners. My nephew, generally, shuts up the factory at night. He did so on Thursday night. I have no idea where the fire commenced except from reports, and the evidence adduced conflicts with those reports. I should think the drying room above the boiler was the most dangerous place.—(By Mr. Prockter: It was a wood floor above the boiler.)—The floors were all wood, except the ground floor.—(By Mr. Prockter: It was not ceiled above the floor. In fact, the planks were open, to allow the heat to pass through.)—There was a small iron rod driven in between the planks to prevent wool falling through. The drying house is next the water.—(By Mr. Prockter: It was used as a drying room only.—By Capt. Du Cane: The workmen had particular instructions to remove the machine waste twice or thrice a week for safety's sake.)—This was always done. I have not inquired when it was last done before the fire.—(By Mr. Hymers: We damp down the engine fire at night.)—We have never worked night-shifts. We had gas in every room. The foreman of each room turned off his gas, and my nephew turned off the main-tap last.—(By Capt. Du Cane: We have had our premises burnt down before.—By Mr. Prockter: We used much oil—about a pint to every 12lb of short wool, mixed with milk; and about a pint to 25lb of long wool.)—The long wool was always screened clean—the short not so.—(By Mr. Hymers: I cannot say what waste was on the lower flat at the time of the fire—about 12lb perhaps—the waste made during the day. We have a place apart from the premises to store the waste.)—The waste is wrought up, generally, for low goods.—(By Capt. Du Cane: If the waste caught fire it would burn very rapidly.)—I am not aware that it would blaze.—(Mr. Schorey tried a

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piece produced by Mr. Wilson, and it blazed on the fire.)—I believe the waste to be only dangerous when it has lain a long time and is in large quantities.—(By the Foreman: There was no large quantity on the premises at the time of the fire. — By the Town Clerk: We had no naphtha on the premises. The building was not heated otherwise than by the boiler.—By Mr. Neville: We had the water laid on, but not into the mill. — By the Town Clerk: It entered near the door, about the middle of the building.—By Mr. Neville: There was no water-pipe that could burst into the adjoining warehouse.)—I know of no gunpowder that was on my premises or in the warehouse. — (By Mr. Lishman: The cause of the first fire was never discovered. It was after that fire that we commenced the removal of the waste.—By Capt. Du Cane: I cannot say at what hour the fire reached the warehouse.—By Mr. Hymers: It is not uncommon to have the drying room over the boiler.—By the Foreman: Repairs were in progress. There had been a shrinking in an archway near the boiler, and a brick arch was being built. I had observed, the day before, that the workmen had hung up a sheet in consequence, to prevent the wind blowing the wool about. — By Mr. Neville: I can't say that the repairs increased the risk, unless it made the fire burn a little keener. — By Mr. Hymers: It certainly increased the danger to have a boiler under the floor, and our insurers took that fact into consideration. No man was allowed to smoke, except at the engine fire. I believe not a pipe has been smoked in our mill since the former fire. — By Mr. Prockter: Our insurers took us again after the former fire. — By Mr. Neville: Our oil was not kept near the boiler. It is now buried under the ruins. In our former fire the oil was undisturbed. — By Mr. Vickers: We were insured for £2,000.)

Mr. Wilson's nephew was next examined; and from his evidence, and that of Policeman Ewart, it is clear that the mill had been entered before Walter Scott was there, and that the fire did not commence on the ground-floor, but in an upper story.

John Wilson: I am nephew of the last witness, and slept on the premises on the night the fire broke out. I slept in the dwelling-house adjoining the mill, next Hillgate. I was awakened by a rap at the street-door, and went and opened it. The door was not broken open. I saw there was a policeman and two or three more men. It might be between 12 and 1. I went into the mill, and up three pairs of stairs. I looked along the highest room but one, and saw the ceiling on fire, next the river. It was towards the west end of the building. The fire was burning fiercely, and had made much progress. It seemed to have burnt some time. I have no idea how it originated. I had looked round the building before I went to bed. I saw the room in question safe about half-past 7. About half-past 10 I was in the second story about the drying room — which was then safe. The gas was all right. I have no idea what caused the fire. It commenced in the highest room, and I think about the N.W. corner. There was a man, James Taylor, working in that room, who came down after me. He had the gas lit, and was making his machine ready for next day.—(By Mr. Prockter: It was not above the boiler where the fire commenced. I went to bed before 11, after making my final examination of the premises.)—James Taylor's employment was not of a nature to cause danger. I know of nothing dangerous about the place where the fire originated. Taylor would turn off the gas in that room. I turned it off at the main tap before 8 o'clock, after Taylor had left. I had a candle when I went to the engine-room. There was nothing dangerous left about when I went to bed. Taylor does not smoke.—(By Mr. Golightly: Some of the windows were left open.)—The wind would blow from Davidson's mill towards our premises that night. If any sparks blew in they might catch the oily floor or a small quantity of waste. There was no quantity of waste. I am quite satisfied the fire originated near the top of the building. — (By Mr. Prockter: I don't know if the policeman followed me up the stairs.) — Seeing no fire on the lower floor, I went up stairs to see where the fire was. I helped the men to carry the goods away. Remembering that there was worsted in the drying room, I went there. There was no fire there. The engines came, and played on the building. We had no gunpowder on the premises, nor am I aware that there was any in the warehouse.—(By Mr. Prockter: It was my practice to go round the building every night about 10 o'clock.—By Capt. Du Cane: Not always into the higher rooms, but generally.) It would be about half-past 7 when I left James Taylor upstairs. He followed me down in about five minutes, and went up no more. I turned off the gas immediately after. — (By Mr. Thompson: More than half the ceiling was consumed when I went up.)—It was burning over towards the S.E. corner. It was the floor of the highest room that was on fire. — (By Mr. Thompson: The machinery was burning. — By Mr. Prockter: I can only guess the time. I think it would be between 12 and 1.)

Some remarks were here made to the effect that, considering the relative positions of the two buildings, and the way of the wind, no sparks from Mr. Davidson's mill could well have found their way to the place in which the fire broke out.

Elizabeth Brown (who had an infant in her arms) now deposed:—I am the widow of Peter Brown, who was killed on the morning of the explosion. My husband was late in coming in one night. We lived in Bell's-yard, Gateshead—the Dun Cow yard. It was about three weeks before the explosion that he came home late. I asked him what had stopped him so late. He said he was at a job in Hillgate, carrying some powder in. He did not say where. Since that again, when sitting at home by the fire, he has often said all Hillgate would be blown up, if there was a fire taking place. He did not name where. When the worsted mill took hold before, five or six years since, he said if the fire came where the powder was, Hillgate would be blown up, and Gateshead and all. That's all I know about this matter. He did not say whom he was working for when he put the powder into Hillgate. He did not say who were with him when he put in the powder. He told some of his friends on the Churchwalk, on the morning of the fire, to get away, or they would be blown up. He left me at the east end of the Churchwalk, and said he would go down to Hillgate, to see if the sulphur had taken hold. I saw him no more alive. He said, when he left me, he would be back in five minutes. He did not tell me to be careful of the powder. He had worked much among sulphur. He never called that powder. He worked for Mr. Davidson, the miller, and for Mr. Bertram. I cannot say how long it was before the fire that he worked for Mr. Bertram. I can only say that he worked for Mr. Bertram two or three years ago. He was a porter on Newcastle quay,

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and would work for anybody.—(By Mr. Prockter: He was sober at the time of the fire.—By Capt. Du Cane: He was not generally sober.—By Mr. Prockter: He was occasionally ill from drink, but did not speak incoherently.—By Capt. Du Cane: He was sober when he talked of the powder.—By Mr. Prockter: He was often out late at nights. I don't suppose, when I asked him what had kept him, that he used the powder as an excuse for being late.—By Capt. Du Cane: He did not talk much to me when tipsy, but went off to bed.—By Mr. Prockter: When he said powder I understood gunpowder.—By Mr. Hymers: It was 9 or 10 o'clock at night when he came home and said he had been getting powder in. He had been out the whole day, and had no dinner. Sometimes, when I knew where he was working, I took him his dinner. I had done so when he worked in Hillgate. He would stay out till midnight when drunk.—By Mr. Prockter: He told Thomas Miles of the powder a few minutes before the explosion. Miles's mother told me so. She said he told her son he had carried 7¼ tons of powder into the warehouse that was on fire.—By Mr. Thompson: My husband left me at a quarter before 3. I remained there until the explosion.—By Mr. Hymers: Joshua Callander was cautioning persons in Hillgate about the powder.—By Mr. Lishman: When I took my husband his dinner at his work in Hillgate, it was to Bertram's warehouse. The last time I took it was about three months since.—By Mr. Hymers: I took his dinner to no other place in Hillgate during the three months.)

John Ewart: I am a policeman in Newcastle. I am the officer who gave information to Scott in Gateshead. I saw the fire from near the Fishmarket on the Sandhill about 20 minutes to 1 o'clock on the morning of the 6th. The first thing I saw was a bright light in the window, and then the window head took hold. It was in the highest story but one. I knew the building to be Wilson's factory that was burnt down before. Flames came out. This was on the side next the river, and near the centre. I crossed the river, and rapped the man up that slept in the mill. Another policeman went for the fire-engines. The man who came to the door had only his shirt on. I don't know his name. I went into the mill, and upstairs. The front side was all on fire, the highest flat but one. There was a good deal of fire, burning fiercely. Some gentlemen came forward, and we carried the worsted to Davidson's mill. The "Newcastle" engine came a few minutes after 1. I have no knowledge of the cause of the fire. The fire increased rapidly. It raged dreadfully after the warehouse got hold. I was in the Churchwalk when the explosion took place. I was not hurt.—(By Mr. Hymers: There was nothing particular observable in the room where I first saw the fire—no accumulations.—By Mr. Prockter: The fire was right across the room. I went into the room alone, and told the young man there was no use his going in. He went up stairs and dressed himself.—By Mr. Hymers: Saw no sparks flying from any chimneys before the fire.)

James Taylor: I am a woollen weaver, and work for Mr. Wilson. I was last in the factory, on the night before the fire, about 8 o'clock. I left the topmost room but one at that hour. I had been sizing a warp. I put the gas out before I came away. Young Wilson came in and told me he was going away a bit between 6 and 7. He gave me instructions to be careful. I left nothing dangerous in the room. I know of nothing that was likely to cause the fire.—(By Mr. Prockter: I had no fire in the room to boil the size. It was boiled down below.)—Some men were at work below, cleaning a scribbler; and when they shouted to me they were done, I went down, and we all left together. I can think of nothing that caused the fire.—(By Mr. Hymers: It is not unusual to work overtime, if the men be above 18 years of age. We have worked till 9. We work by the day, 6 to 6, and are paid for overtime, I suppose.—By Capt. Ducane: I was working overtime on the night before the fire.—By Mr. Golightly: I am sure I put the gaslight out.

The Coroner forbade any one to prompt the jury.

John Bewick: I know Bertram's warehouses well. I was eight years warehouseman there, during the time Mr. Bertram had them. It is three years since I last had to do with them. I was three years with the County Fire Office, and left when Mr. Sisson came. I know the vaults well, being at the building of them. The floor of the vaults was on a level with the quay, and not less than 16 or 17 feet below the street. There was no place below the vaults. There was no place we called a magazine. We never took powder in while I was there, either in Mr. Bertram's time or after. We were never asked to take any in. We never took in lucifer matches. I have been asked, but never did, for fear of accident. I have never known of gunpowder being put into the warehouse since I left. I don't know Peter Brown who was killed. I can give no information as to the fire or explosion. I have no reason to believe that gunpowder was in the warehouse.—(By Mr. Prockter: I kept the keys of the whole building, and no one could admit goods without my knowledge.—By Mr. Neville: We would allow a custom-house officer to pass through the building to a vessel lying at our quay.)

Questions were put to the witness by Capt. Du Cane and others which elicited the following facts:—On the floor level with the quay, and 16 or 17 feet below Hillgate, there were four arched vaults of stone, rising about 13 feet from the floor, west of the entrance gateway, and on the side next the street. Immediately east of these, and under the passage-way, was a joisted chamber about 16 feet high, separated from the passage above by a floor of wood, and the flat rope laid down for the carts to travel upon. This chamber had stone walls. It had a doorway, but no door. It measured about 7 yards in length and 5 in width, and would hold from 70 to 80 tons of nitre and sulphur. This was the chamber that contained the sulphur and superincumbent nitre.

Mr. Wilson, when the court was rising, expressed a wish to say a few words in explanation. Taylor, he said, had perhaps misled the jury, inadvertently, when speaking of over-hours. He referred to the law as to the length of time per day during which young persons could be employed, and stated that adults could work as long as they chose. In his (Mr. Wilson's) mill, however, there was no night-work. It was only occasionally that a workmen remained past the ordinary hour of closing, to do some small job, preparatory to the operations of the following day.

There being no more witnesses ready for examination, the inquiry was adjourned to Thursday, the 26th Oct., at 10 o'clock.

THE KILLED AND WOUNDED.

We present at one view a return of the killed and wounded by the late fire and explosion in Gateshead

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and Newcastle. Upwards of 80 sufferers have received medical aid at the Gateshead Dispensary, and more than 120 at the Infirmary of Newcastle; and it is highly honourable to the house-surgeons and medical staffs of those invaluable charities, that so sudden and extensive a pressure upon their resources was so promptly and efficiently met. Much better fared the wounded on the banks of the Tyne than the wounded on the banks of the Alma; and should there be any surplus after the claims on the relief fund are satisfied, it will be no more than a simple act of justice to remember the deserts of the Gateshead Dispensary and the Newcastle Infirmary. Many sufferers, whose wounds were dressed, were not recorded; the books of the two charities bear testimony, by their hurried entries, to the quick succession of the arrivals; and we are very conscious that our list is at once incomplete and inaccurate. But, imperfect as it is, it will enable the reader, better than any mere description, to realize the vastness and the horror of the calamity, and will, moreover, serve our secondary object of impressing the public mind with a conviction of the priceless worth of the Infirmary and Dispensary, and of their title to general and liberal support.

KILLED IN GATESHEAD ON THE SPOT.

Robert Pattinson, tanner, Newcastle, aged 38, councillor.
Cranbourne Hastings Paynter, 18, ensign, 26th Cameronians, son of the Hammersmith police magistrate.
John Stephenson, lance-corporal in ditto, 34.
Charles Bertram, borough magistrate, Gateshead, (not found).
Charles Hamilton, 53, hairdresser, Church-street, Gateshead.
Charles Hamilton, his nephew, carpenter, (not found).
Charles Duke, 45, foreman to Mr. Edward Bruce, builder, Gateshead.
Charles Duke, 12, his son, apprentice to ditto.
Henry Harrison, 34, Mosley and Dean-streets, Newcastle, son of Mr. Henry Harrison, Gateshead.
William Davison, millwright, 22, son of Mr. John Davison, Walker-terrace, Gateshead, miller.
Thomas Sharp, 27, gentleman, 7, Summerhill-terrace, Newcastle, son of the late Mr. Sharp, farmer, Paxton Dene, Northumberland.
Alexander Ralph Dobson, 25, son of John Dobson, Esq., architect, Newcastle.
James Mosley, 24, Oakwellgate, shacklemaker with Abbot & Co., Gateshead.
Martin Hall, 52, fireman (North British), Gallowgate, Newcastle.
James Todd, 22, fireman (North British).
Samuel Hart, 44, labourer with Mr. James Snowball, Churchwalk, Gateshead.
Mary Hart, his wife, (not found).
John Hart, 15, his son.
Mary Ann Hart, 8, his niece.
William Battersby Scott, 24, one of Hawks & Crawshay's workmen, son of Mr. Thomas Halliday Scott, Scott's Buildings, Pipewellgate.
Mary Bewick, 9, Churchwalk, Gateshead, daughter of Benjamin Bewick, smith, and grandchild of Mr. John Bewick, many years warehouseman with Mr. Bertram.
Thomas Scott, 27, policeman, Gateshead.
Peter May, 67, labourer.
Anthony Willis, 60, skinner, Gateshead, (with Mr. Wilson).
James Weallans, 28, worsted-weaver, Gateshead, (with ditto).

DIED SUBSEQUENTLY IN GATESHEAD.

Frank Conway, 6, son of Daniel Conway, blacksmith, Potts's-yard, near the *Observer* office, (wounded by stones falling through the roof, which caused his death in a few hours).
Sarah Hutchinson, 65, spinster, Rabbit-banks, Gateshead, (killed by fright).
Robert Affleck, 70, formerly of Hawks & Crawshay's works, (died of the shock).

KILLED IN NEWCASTLE.

Patrick Mooney, labourer with Hawks, Crawshay, & Sons, (killed on the Quayside).
Robert Laidler, 23, Gateshead, engineer, son of Mr. Laidler, of the Teams, (found dead in a ship at the Quayside).
Mary Anderson, No. 85, Side, (killed on the Sandhill).
Peter Brown, porter-pokeman, Gateshead, (found in the Dark-entry, Quayside).
A boy, (supposed to be buried in the ruins of the Grey Horse, Quayside).

DIED IN THE INFIRMARY.

Richard Dodds, 39, Gateshead, labourer, wound of scalp, fracture of skull, and burns.
John Young (of Edinburgh), 19, Gateshead, wood-turner, laceration of brain, extensive burns.
James Dalrymple, 41, Gateshead, miller with Mr. Davidson, fracture of spine.
Ellen Short, 28, servant with Mr. Davidson, contusions, fracture of ribs and scapula, &c.
John Humble, 28, painter, Pipewellgate, Gateshead, fracture of pelvis, laceration of bladder, &c.
Isaac Anderson, 40, fireman, (foreman of the North British brigade,) laceration of arm, fracture of wrist, bruises of chest, &c.
Mary Kerss, 21, Churchwalk, Gateshead, contusion of abdomen, fracture of pelvis, and laceration of bowels.
Ann Ludlow, 54, Oakwellgate, Gateshead, tripe-dealer, widow of Walter Ludlow, compound fracture of arm and scapula, (amputated at shoulder-joint).
William Williamson, 56, Gateshead, fracture of ribs, scalp wounds, &c.
William Weir, 30, Felling, labourer, concussion of brain.

IN-PATIENTS OF THE INFIRMARY.

The ten above-named, who died.
Robert Johnson, 32, baker, fractured ribs.
Henry Keenan, 19, Gateshead, glassmaker, bruises.
George Dolan, 28, labourer, scalp wound.
John Gough, 33, Gateshead, labourer, fractures of arms and legs, burns, &c.
Robert Hoggett, 19, Gateshead, scalp wounds, concussion of brain, &c.
Michael M'Nally, 28, Gateshead, labourer, broken ribs and burns.
Martin Doyle, 18, Gateshead, labourer, scalp wound, fracture of ribs, and burns.
Caroline Hutchinson, 50, Gateshead, compound fracture of leg, burns.
James Dixon, 35, extensive burns.
William Lee, 18, Gateshead, blacksmith, scalp wound, concussion of brain.
Thomas Lindsay, 24, Gateshead, blacksmith, compound fracture of right leg.
Robert Blair, 27, soldier, scalp wounds.
John Wilkinson, 19, soldier, burns, bruises, and wounds.
William Thompson, 32, cooper, fracture of limbs, wounds of face, &c.
John Wheatley, 35, Gateshead, skinner, fracture of thigh, scalp wound, &c.
Hugh M'Guire, 28, Gateshead, labourer, fracture of ribs.
John Dodd, 10, Gateshead, compound fracture of skull and fracture of metacarpal bones.
Michael Dunn, 21, Gateshead, labourer, fissure of skull, wound of face.
Edward Tunstall, 28, Gateshead, scalp wound, bruise of face.
James Turnbull, 21, Gateshead, glassmaker, bruise of left leg.
Andrew M'Cree, 40, Gateshead, brickmaker, extensive scalp wounds and bruises.
Matthew Brown, 54, Gateshead, labourer, bruise of back.
Robert Johnston, 32, baker, fractured ribs.
Henry Murton, 38, Gateshead, soapmaker, compound fracture of ilium and thigh.
John Gibson, 31, Gateshead, labourer, injury to eyes.
William Miller, 18, Gateshead, glassmaker, fractures.

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Robert M'Donald, 30, labourer, compound fracture of fibula.
Elizabeth M'Millan, 16 months, Gateshead, fracture of skull, bruises, burns, &c.
Peter Coggins, 11, Gateshead, scalp wound, &c.
Bridget Coggins, 40, Gateshead, wounds and bruises.
James Nicholson, 7, Gateshead, fracture of skull, &c.
Ann Gibson, 20, Gateshead, wound of eyeball, scalp, &c.
Ellen Farney, 3, Gateshead, fracture of skull, &c.
Catherine Phelan, 50, wound of thigh, &c.
Alice Maclean, 50, laceration of feet.
Mary Simpson, 38, burns.
Jacob Watson, 27, compound fracture of skull, &c.
Thomas Mather, 17, fracture of skull, legs, &c.
John Anderson, 27, labourer, compound fracture of metatarsal bones, &c., (husband of Mary Anderson, of the Side, killed on the Sandhill).
Thomas Price, 25, Gateshead, labourer, bruises.
John White, hatter, 51, Gateshead, compound fracture of humerus, radius, and ulna, and fracture of right ilium.
Ralph Little, police inspector, fracture of ribs and ulna, and partial dislocation of ankle.
Mary Ward, 21, Gateshead, wound of leg.
James Oubridge, 17, sailor, burns.
Thomas Clark, 25, Gateshead, labourer, bruises.
Thomas Ferguson, 30, Elswick, injury to knee.
Jane Walkins, 4, burns.
John Smith, sprains and bruises.

OUT-PATIENTS OF THE INFIRMARY.

Catherine ——, 12, bruised face.
J. W. Mawson, wounded arm.
Charles Brown, 22, wound of head.
Arthur Gritton, 26, bruise of arm.
W. Lamb, 30, bruises.
Mary Mitcheson, 24, wound of elbow.
Michael Ward, 14, face wound.
Mary Mitchell, 24, Mary Scott, 18, Clara Carter, 17, } bruises.
Robert Nicholson, 35, fireman, bruises.
Peter Brown, 25, burns.
Robert Young, 32, labourer, wounds of head.
John Thompson, 28, wounds of head.
James Doern, 14, sailor, bruises.
M. M'Kinneny, 38, labourer, bruises.
Michael M'Kinny, 40, fractured ribs.
Hugh M'Guire, 28, bruises.
Thomas Scott, 25, burns.
William Nixon, 15, burns.
Michael Gibbin, 23, labourer, cuts.
James Fairbairn, 23, labourer, cuts.
John Gibson, 25, labourer, scalp wound.
David Todd, 40, fireman, bruises.
John Campbell, 41, labourer, burns.
John Gordon, 56, face-wound.
Mary Hutchinson, 50, fracture of radius and ulna.
David Johnston, 40, burns.
Michael Brown, 40, sprain of ankle.
W. Scott, 25, burns.
W. Wandless, 15, glassmaker, burns.
John M'Cavanagh, 45, labourer, wound of head.
Mary Clinton, 33, Butcher-bank, burns.
John Hawthorn, 33, Westgate, quarryman, bruises.
Michael Gray, 24, foreign body in eye.
Thomas Bailey, 28, Gateshead, wound of eyeball.
Dennis Shell, 31, Gateshead, bruises.
James Stearman, 26, wound of head.
James Todd, 38, fireman, burns.
Michael Ireland, 20, scalp wound.
Nicholas Maclaren, 45, sprain.
James Shaft, 39, Gateshead, bruises.
Thomas Batey, 40, Gateshead, wounds of eyes.
Thomas Taylor, 50, face wound.
Henry Waggot, 66, Gateshead, wound of leg.
Andrew Rich, 32, bruises.
Charles Clementson, 37, Gateshead, injury to hip.
Lawrence M'Kenny, 27, wound of eyebrow.
John Hayton, 45, burns.

John Bird, 28, wounds of head.
James Frazer, 45, burns.
John Walker, 30, injury to head.
Margaret A. Fish, 15, burns.
John Moffett, 25, wounds of head.
Janet Fullens, 22, Gateshead, burns and bruises.
Mary Turner, 49, Gateshead, burns and bruises.
John Watson, 22, burns.
Ralph Jobling, 36, porter, wounds and bruises.
Charles Lund, 26, burn of foot.
Frederick Clough, 32, face-wound.
Jane Welton, 27, burn of foot.
John Marsh, 21, burns.
And many others.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY PATIENTS.

Henry Fairbairn, 23, Hillgate, severe cuts.
Nichol Henderson, 7, Hillgate, burns.
Andrew Michael, 27, Hillgate, burns.
Alexander Ainslie, 9, Church-walk, burns.
Thomas Eraily, 13, South Shore, injury to fingers.
Mary Shields, 27, Church-street, injury to eye.
Elizabeth Morrison, 27, Church-walk, knee severely bruised.
William Bramwell, 50, High-street, burns.
William Leek, 9, High-street, severely crushed by paving-stone in his own house.
R. Brown, 26, Church-street, burns.
Alexander Nathan, 7, Church-walk, bruises.
John Hall, 19, Hillgate, bruises.
Thomas Goodman, 44, Church-walk, head severely crushed.
Jane Smith, 60, Hillgate, wound of temporal artery.
Thomas Oley, 19, High-street, head and shoulder severely crushed.
Caroline Hutchinson, 50, Church-walk, fractured leg.
John M'Clasky, 30, Pipewellgate, injury to foot.
Alexander Moffat, 7, High-street, face-wound.
James Thompson, 25, Church-walk, bruised toes.
Thomas Wake, 9, Hymers'-court, bruises.
Peter Nicholson, 12, Church-walk, head extensively cut.
Peter Nicholson, 47, Church-walk, leg burnt and bruised.
Jane Nicholson, 30, Church-walk, face crushed.
Hannah Bainbridge, 9, Church-walk, face wounds.
Manasseh Cain, Church-walk, scalp wounds.
John Bell, 38, Church-walk, face wounded.
W. Campbell, 18, Hillgate, arm crushed severely.
Thomas Henderson, 20, Hymers'-court, leg and arm bruised, (leaped from his window).
James Brown, 40, Church-walk, bruises and wounds.
Matthew Brown, 42, Hillgate, back bruised, (removed to Infirmary).
William Bishop, 16, Hillgate, eyeball destroyed by a stone.
Ann Ladlow, Oakwellgate, arm torn off by a stone, (died in the Infirmary).
Mary Ainslie, 59, Hillgate, wounds and bruises.
Alexander Thomson, 35, Bottle-bank, fracture of fore-arm.
Archibald Nicholson, 50, Hillgate, severe cuts.
Mary Turner, 32, Hillgate, burns.
James Henderson, 30, Church-street, injuries to feet.
Martha M'Guire, 18, Church-street, fractured clavicle.
Peter Tomlin, 34, Hillgate, bruises.
Margaret Wilson, 29, Oakwellgate, face wounds.
William Johnson, 40, Oakwellgate, face and scalp wounds.
Peter Gallagher, 38, Oakwellgate, arm crushed by stone.
Henry Jones, 60, Pipewellgate, scalp burns.
Thomas Docherty, 7, Church-walk, severe wounds on thigh.
Mary Smith, 53, Church-street, contusions on face.
Mary Gray, 60, Church-walk, contusions.
Edward Morrison, 4, Church-walk, wounds.
Mary Corby, 67, Hillgate, scalp wound.
Joseph Corby, 72, Hillgate, injury to leg.
Henry Pearson, 40, High-street, sprain of ankle.
Ellen White, 10, High-street, cut of knee.
James Croll, Church-walk, contused foot.
John Siltry, 56, Church-walk, injury to back.
Thomas Paceby, 3, Nuns-lane, injury to eye.
Thomas Winter, 47, New Gateshead, cut of face.
Mary Carr, 70, Oakwellgate, injury to head.

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William Dobson, 27, Oakwellgate, fractured ribs.
John Shanks, 14, High-street, scalp wound.
Mary Shanks, 50, High-street, crushed.
George Shanks, 52, High-street, burns.
Mary Kelly, 23, High-street, bruises.
Jane Grey, 70, Oakwellgate, burns.
J. M'Menemy, 37, Church-walk, crushed.
Mary Hayhurst, 51, Hillgate, scalp wound, &c.
Mary Mackay, 47, Bell's-yard, wounds and bruises.
Sarah Frayin, 33, Lambton-street, fracture of metacarpal bones.
Michael Stranton, Oakwellgate, bruises.
William Elliott, 19, scalp wound.
George White, 38, Hillgate, wounds and bruises.
Michael Nicholson, 6, Cannon-street, injury to foot.
Catherine Donelly, 27, Leonard's-court, bruises.
Michael Donelly, 7, Leonard's-court, burns.
Robert Iley, 30, Oakwellgate, injury to side.
Mary Skelleen, 54, Oakwellgate, injury to arm.
Elizabeth Hawkins, 34, Hillgate, scalp wounds, &c.
J. Valentine, 16, Hillgate, bruise of toes.
Elizabeth Simm, 9, High-street, bruises.
And many others.

To these must be added the wounded soldiers, about 30 in number, (who were removed to the barracks, and attended by the military surgeon); and also the patients of private practitioners.

A battle-field could not have yielded a more horrible tragedy. Limbs were torn away, bones fractured, lumps of wood forced into the human body, hot stones buried in the flesh, burning sulphur wrapped around unconscious victims, and every conceivable injury inflicted upon man, woman, and child. What would have been the plight of the poor sufferers had not the dispensary and infirmary been in existence?

MISCELLANEOUS INCIDENTS.

One of the bedsteads in a ruined house in Hillgate was found to be principally composed of a couple of "stretchers!" from which the occupiers had happily escaped alive.

A Quayside-merchant found several bank-notes in the ruins of his cash-box reduced to a cinder. It was still possible to determine what they had been—but that was all. The Bank of England, however, liberally cashed them.

Another Quaysider, whose premises and stock were totally destroyed, philosophically consoled himself that his plight might have been worse. He was from home—was to have returned on the night preceding the fire—but was detained. Had it been otherwise, a considerable sum of money, received on his journey, would have been added to his loss.

A young lady, looking at the fire from the Quayside, witnessed the dread explosion, and lost her consciousness. When she recovered she was at the bridge-end. How she came there, she knew not. The interval was a blank in her memory.

An old lady, startled in her sleep in Westgate-street, rushed to the window. She saw "the moon and the stars flying in all directions;" she "thought the last day was come;" and she ran back to her bed, and covered herself up.

Three young men, standing on the Sandhill, were blown in different directions. One of them was taken up unconscious, hanging over the quay. The Quayside was covered with people prostrate and helpless; and soon, men and women and children were moving hither and thither in their night-dresses, and every street in the two towns was rapidly thronged with a flying population, realizing Pliny's description of the flight from the Vesuvian eruption.

It is a curious fact, the *Newcastle Chronicle* observes, that in a great many instances those who were on Newcastle Quay witnessing the fire at the time of the explosion did not hear the tremendous report which awoke the country for miles round. They describe themselves to have been lifted from their feet as by some unseen power, and thrown down, the violence of the prostration stunning their faculties; and when they awoke from their stupor they had only a dim idea of a great rolling sound having been in their ears.—(Even in Hillgate there were spectators who have no remembrance of the explosion.)—For some minutes the matter remained incomprehensible to those who found themselves in the act of arising from the ground at the same time with scores of others; and some who recovered themselves sooner than their neighbours fled in terror of they knew not what, over the bodies of those who were lying thickly in the street on their faces or their backs. The rapidity and suddenness with which the spectators were overtaken may be illustrated by a fact resting on medical authority:—A woman who was looking at the fire from a window on the Quayside suffered loss of eyesight; and so instantaneously was the shock communicated that the glass which penetrated the eyeball left the eyelid entirely uninjured.

In adverting (says the *Newcastle Courant*) to the probable loss of property last week, we noticed several sums the fire offices were responsible for, amounting to £140,000. Since then we have ascertained that Messrs. Wilson, of the Gateshead worsted mill, were insured for £2,000; Mr. Davidson, miller, £9,000, (the value of the engine standing to be deducted from that sum); and as to the bond warehouse, it was mortgaged in the County Fire Office for £15,000. It has also been stated that nearly all the merchants possessing goods within it were insured. Mr. Hew Singers was also insured. As to some of the parties on the Quayside, we understand that Messrs. Smith & Co. were insured for £7,500, including stock and property; and Mr. Teasdale, who kept the public house behind, and who had barely time to escape in his night-dress, £1,000; but neither of these sums adequately cover their losses. Messrs. Harding were insured for £5,000; and, it is stated, Mr. Snowdon for £1,700. Several other parties have also secured some compensation by being insured; but a number of others, who occupied the property as tenants, have lost their all from the rapid progress of the flames.

There are still many speculations as to the cause of the explosion. The solution of the difficulty proposed by Mr. Lee Pattinson, simple as it is, fails to satisfy some minds, chiefly because the explosive force of the substances he described has not been as generally known as is that of gunpowder.—*Scotsman.*

The water has been pumped out of the "crater." The floor of the vault in which the explosion occurred was, it appears, about twelve feet below the level of Hillgate; the bottom of the crater is nearly thirty feet below that level—the efforts of the explosive power, in seeking a fulcrum from which to act in throwing off the mass which lay above it, having depressed the ground by at least fifteen feet!—*Newcastle Chronicle.* (The floor of the vault was exactly 14½ feet below the level of Hillgate. The depth of the crater from Hillgate, so far as it can yet be

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accurately ascertained, ranges from 18½ to 22½ feet. It is certainly 18½ feet; but there is a depth of 4 feet lower down, the nature of which is yet matter of speculation.—Ed. G.O.)

The walls of Newcastle and Gateshead, ever since the explosion, have been covered with the placards to which it has given birth—some of them commonplace, others original and curious. Among the latter must be classed a printed intimation of a shopkeeper in Pilgrim-street:—"The Remains of the Fire is selling off!"

"ILL-FATED NEWCASTLE!"

The *Guardian* (London paper) says:—"Ill-fated Newcastle, a prey to successive calamities, seems destined to illustrate all the miseries of war. It has been decimated by cholera, and blown up without a siege. The cause of this last misfortune was the accidental explosion of a large quantity of gunpowder, which has occasioned a frightful destruction of life and property." In reading this it should be remembered that Newcastle was the place where, almost before it was clear of the cholera, meetings were held demanding war, and where, only lately, a town's meeting denounced the Government for not carrying on the war in a bloodier manner.—*Hull Advertiser.*

☞ Yes! good *Advertiser!* but the fire and the explosion occurred, not in Newcastle, but in Gateshead, where no such meetings were held. You jump to conclusions, like the *Guardian*—which blames gunpowder before proof.

(FROM THE WINDSOR EXPRESS.)

We must not suffer our thoughts to be engrossed either by the marvellous achievements of the allied forces in the East, or by the fearful sacrifice of the lives of our countrymen and brave allies which has accompanied their successes. At home—in the terrific conflagrations, explosions, loss of life, and destruction of property at Gateshead and Newcastle-on-Tyne—we have powerful claims upon our speedy and unequivocal sympathy. It is true that, as in many other instances in the world's history, this tremendous immediate calamity may, to both towns, prove a "blessing in disguise." In few towns did Cholera find so fertile a field for its rebuking devastations as in these twin Tyneside towns; and notwithstanding the naturally favourable site of both, in few have the laws of sanatory economy been more perversely violated than they were in the lower and densely-populated portions of Gateshead and Newcastle. The result of the inquiry into the origin of the conflagration and explosions may also prove beneficial to the whole kingdom, by showing, as has already been shown, that there was no large stock of gunpowder stored in the bonding warehouse in Gateshead, and yet that the huge stocks of chemical ingredients there placed were quite sufficient, when in a state of combustion and with water coming in contact in a confined space, to cause even those terrific explosions which have been probably unparalleled in their effects by anything short of the late bombardment of Bomarsund, and that we are daily expecting to hear of at Sebastopol. But at what a price will any improvements in the reconstruction of the destroyed parts of Gateshead and Newcastle, or any addition to our stock of practical chemical knowledge, have been gained! It is not alone the fifty valuable lives lost, the hundred and more killed and wounded, or the destruction of property to the value of more than a million pounds sterling, which has to be taken into account. There are the desolation carried into many a family, the numbers of persons thrown out of employment, the lasting suffering or incapacity for future exertion, also to be considered; and all close following upon the heels of a visitation none the less terrible because it is in a great measure a self-inflicted punishment for systematic violation of the laws of health. We say again, then, that we must not forget our suffering countrymen at home, while fulfilling our bounden duty to our wounded soldiers and sailors in the East.

(FROM THE NONCONFORMIST.)

The Queen left Balmoral on Friday morning, and reached Windsor on Saturday evening, having rested at Newcastle and Hull. At the former town, Her Majesty had to receive the mournful information that the loss of life in the late fire and explosion has been underrated—that probably not less than fifty lives were sacrificed at the instant, or by injuries received. The royal munificence was, as usual, exerted. In all, about four thousand pounds have been subscribed for the relief of the sufferers—scarcely adequate, we should suppose, to present necessities. The permanent reparation to the industrious poor of the loss of the houses, is a question that we hope will not suffer from the natural anxiety of the holders of property to effect an early arrangement with the insurance companies and municipality. Perhaps the general public could not better testify its sympathy with the stricken town, and its sense of social duty, than by subscribing to a scheme for building workmen's homes in Tyneside.

RELICS OF THE EXPLOSION.

THE MASTERS AND MARINERS RESIDENT IN HILLGATE.

Our readers will be glad to learn, that, by the exertions of Mr. C. D. Garbutt, the handsome carvings which distinguished Mr. Bulcraig's property in Hillgate were preserved from destruction in the operations of the late fire. Obligingly placed by the owner at the disposal of the local Society of Antiquaries, they have been deposited for reference in the chapel of the keep of the Castle. The fractures they have suffered are not material. The subjects are an arched door-head, with the festoony decoration of the close of the 17th century, an imposing example of the arms of the Masters and Mariners of Newcastle, and a stone carved with an escallop shell. The arms are composed of an anchor and boatswain's whistle (which some heralds have, according to Brand, transmogrified into a *cannon*), tastefully arranged; the crest is a ship; the supporters are mermaids; and the motto is "*Deus dabit vela.*" In former days, as is well known, Hillgate was the choice residence of persons of considerable wealth and commercial consequence. About 1660, the two burgages constituting Mr. Bulcraig's property belonged to (and were occupied by) Matthew Bates, a master and mariner of Gateshead, who had succeeded to Anne Raine, and in 1676 he charged a charity of 20s. yearly upon it. On the North, the boundary was "the low water mark" of the Tyne: on the South, the street of Hillgate, *alias* St. Mary's-gate. On each side was a common landing. Beyond that, to the West, (in 1692 called "*Partridge's Landing,*") was a burgage belonging to Thomas Partridge, a master and mariner; and beyond that, to the East, (in 1692 called "*The Soapboilers' Landing,*") was the property of Timothy Jeffrey, mariner. The soapboiler of the landing was John Airey, who occu-

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pied a soaphouse on the Bates property in 1692, and for some years afterwards. In this year (1692) the property passed by purchase from Abraham Bates, a cloth-dresser of Skircoate in Yorkshire, to Robert Procter, master and mariner of Gateshead. There was then a wharf on the premises; and there were three tenants, the soapboiler, a mariner named William Lake, and Thomas *Carpinter*, a *cabinetmaker*. Procter, the purchaser, went to live on his bargain, in company with the soapboiler and a mariner called William Southwaite. He died in 1712 or 1713, leaving three sons, all masters and mariners; and the property passed through Matthew, the first son, a bachelor, John Procter the second son, Anthony Procter his son (who died an infant), and Thomas Procter the third son of Robert, to Robert Procter, son of Thomas, who was a "gentleman" at Gateshead. He sinned deeply against the inheritance of his most marine family, and sold it in 1824.

The style of the coat armorial seems to fix it on an honest pride evinced either by Matthew Bates the purchaser of 1660, or by Robert Procter the purchaser of 1695, in the noble company to which they belonged; and, indeed, a renovation of the premises for the residence of a fresh owner is what one would naturally expect. X†O.

SUFFERERS BY FIRE RELIEF FUND.—ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Subscriptions already announced by Gateshead Committee	£1143	3	0
George Boyd, Esq.	5	0	0
Mr. Ralph Morton	1	1	0
Messrs. Samuel Finney & Co.	5	0	0
Inspector Buglass, South Shields	1	0	0
Mayor of Sunderland	50	0	0
Cuthbert Ellison, Esq.	200	0	0
Mrs. Ellison	50	0	0
G. S. Dixon	5	0	0
St. John's Presbyterian Church, South Shields	7	0	0
John Bowes, Esq.	100	0	0
George Forster, Esq., Consett	5	0	0
John Young, Esq., Railway Foundry, Leeds	20	0	0
John Waddington, Esq., Leeds	5	0	0
Mrs. Briggs, Gateshead	0	5	0
A Servant at Charlton Kings, Cheltenham	0	5	0
Nicholas Morriss, Blue House	2	0	0
Day & Barker, Lincolnshire	10	0	0
Fleet Brothers, London	10	0	0
Thomas Morland, Esq.	10	0	0
Mrs. Akenhead	5	0	0
H. B. Horie's second subscription	1	0	0
Benjamin Barkus, Esq.	1	0	0
Lord Ravensworth	25	0	0
Joseph Colling, Esq., London	10	0	0
Dr. Jollie, Esq., M.D.	2	2	0
A Friend	0	10	0
A Poor Man	0	1	6
Marshall Tweddell	5	0	0
Thomas Ramsay	2	2	0
George Smallfield, Windsor	0	10	0
Edwin Ward, Jackson, London	1	0	0
Misses Hutchinson, Peareth-place	0	10	0
Pupils of ditto	1	5	0
Mrs. Kirk	2	2	0
T. H. Scott	1	0	0
Mr. Russell, St. Helens, Lancashire	0	2	6
Willington & Co., Tipton, Staffordshire	5	0	0
George Boyd	5	5	0
Postage Stamps per Dr. Davies	0	4	0
Lord Adolphus Vane Tempest	10	0	0
A London Merchant, per Mr. Potts	5	0	0
A Friend, per J. Linsley	1	0	0
Collection at Washington Church on 22d inst.	3	14	9½
Several Merchants of the City of London, per Alexander George Gray, Esq., viz.:—			
Amount previously subscribed	£117	12	0
Francis Ridley, Esq., Canonbury, London	5	0	0
Messrs. Overend, Gurney, & Co., Lombard-street	5	5	0
Messrs. Baiss, Brothers, & Co., Cannon-street	5	5	0
Messrs. Brandram, Brothers, & Co., Sise-lane	5	5	0
Messrs. Price, Gifford, & Co., Mincing-lane	5	5	0
Messrs. Adams, Pickford, & Co., Leadenhall-street	5	5	0
Messrs. Edwards & Eastley, Old Broad-street	5	5	0
George Harker, Esq., Thames-street	5	5	0
W. A. Rose, Esq., Queenhithe	5	5	0
Messrs. John Feltham & Co., Lombard-street	5	5	0
Messrs. D. M'Murdo & Co., Thames-street	5	5	0
Messrs. Howards & Kent, Stratford	5	5	0
Messrs. Hughes, Hockton, & Bunning, Horsley-down	5	5	0
F. C. Hills, Esq., Deptford	3	3	0
R. Ramsden, Esq., Lime-street	3	3	0
Messrs. Jaeger & Lingemann, Great St. Helen's	2	2	0
Messrs. Thomassett & Cuffley, ditto	2	2	0
Messrs. Lewis & Peatt, Mincing-lane	2	2	0
Messrs. Punhim & Johnson, New-road	2	2	0
Messrs. Bushler & Ammann	2	2	0
Messrs. W. Northcott & Son, Rood-lane	2	2	0
George Starton, Esq., Fenchurch-street	2	2	0
George Hawkins, Esq.	2	2	0
Messrs. J. Fraser & Sons, St. Swithin's-lane	2	2	0
Messrs. Richardson, Brothers, & Co., St. Helen's-place	2	2	0
Messrs. A. B. & Co.	2	2	0
Messrs. Ellis & Hale, Lime-street	2	2	0
Messrs. Atkinson, Bigger, & Co., Aldersgate-street	2	2	0
J. W. Goss, Esq., Bull Wharf	2	2	0
W. Harvest, Esq. (additional)	2	2	0
D. Harvest, Esq. (additional)	2	2	0
P. J. Rulli, Esq., Lloyd's	2	2	0
Messrs. Jietkins & Butcher	1	1	0
Messrs. Colbeck, Alcock, & Co.	1	1	0
Messrs. W. Liddiard & Co.	1	1	0
R. H. Page, Esq., Mincing-lane	1	1	0
Messrs. S. C. Saunders & Co., Lower Thames-street	1	1	0
X Y.Z.	1	1	0
Richard Gibbs, Esq., White Hart-court	1	1	0
Messrs. Laing & Co., Mincing-lane	1	1	0
Messrs. Trueman & Rouse, Fenchurch-street	1	1	0
James Clark, Esq., Billiter-street	1	1	0
A. D. Castle, Esq., Bull Wharf	1	1	0
Messrs. Cox & Gould, Osborn-place	1	1	0
H. Dalton, Esq., Tower-street	1	1	0
Messrs. E. S. Manico & Co., Brook's Wharf	1	1	0
R. Thornton, Esq., Lloyd's	1	1	0
Messrs. Dale, Morgan, & Co., Broad-street	1	1	0
Messrs. Silva & Phillips, Griffin's Wharf	1	1	0
W. Parker, Esq., Hartley's Wharf	1	1	0
W. T. Curtis, Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs. F. Woodbridge & Co., Mincing-lane	1	1	0
Messrs. T. England & Son, Lloyd's	1	1	0
W. E. D. Cumming, Esq., Lloyd's	1	1	0
J. Pryer, Esq., Lloyd's	1	1	0
William Gray, Esq., Lloyd's	1	1	0
J. Street, Esq., Lloyd's	1	1	0
A Friend, Lloyd's	1	1	0
J. Reynolds, Esq., Lloyd's	1	1	0
J. Cooper, Esq., Lloyd's	1	1	0
J. W., Lloyd's	1	1	0
A. A. K., Lloyd's	1	1	0
C. Wilson, Esq., Shadwell	1	1	0
W. Medland, Esq., Upper Thames-street, London	1	1	0
Messrs. J. Merry & Co., Fenchurch-street	1	1	0
R. Emley, Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs. Ayre & Hewitt, Hull	5	5	0
J. W. Goss & Nephew, Bull Wharf	2	2	0
Sotheran, Son, & Draper, Tower-street	1	1	0

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S. S. & Co., King William-street	2	2	0
F. O. Smithers, Mincing-lane	1	1	0
Richard Jones, Shad Thames	1	1	0
S. & G. Allen, City Road	2	2	0
Hodgkinson & Tonge, Upper Thames-street	5	5	0
Frederick Allen, Bow Common	2	2	0
William Pearce, Bow Common	2	2	0
W. T. Fawkes, Mincing Lane	1	1	0
W. J Hall & Co., Custom House Quay	5	5	0
W. Moberly, Son, & Co., Winchester-street	2	2	0
Standring Brothers, Minories	2	2	0
J. A. R. & B., Minories	2	2	0
Robert Roxburgh, Lloyd's	1	1	0
J. W. Steenmoor, Lloyd's	1	1	0
D. W. Amgament, Lloyd's	1	1	0
W. H. Watts, Lloyd's	1	1	0
James Dewar, Lloyd's	1	1	0
John L. Fisk, Lloyd's	1	1	0

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

On Tuesday, Oct. 17, a special meeting of the Rector, Churchwardens, and Four-and-Twenty, was held at the National School, Gateshead, to take into consideration the present lamentable state of the parish church of St. Mary, wrecked as it is by the explosion of the 6th inst., and to decide upon the measures proper to be adopted in the emergency. The Rector (Dr. Davies) stated that he had made temporary arrangements prior to last Sunday; and henceforth, so long as it might be necessary, there would be three services at St. Edmund's, instead of one, as formerly. From the Bishop and the Lord of the Manor he had received characteristic letters, intimating their readiness to relieve the sufferers, and to assist in providing anew for the celebration of divine worship. The Rector stated the substance of the letters, the liberality of which cannot be too highly commended; and a conversational discussion ensued, which ended in the unanimous adoption of a resolution that Mr. Dobson, the architect, be appointed to ascertain and report — 1. Whether the injuries sustained by the sacred edifice be such as to render it inexpedient to repair and retain it.—2. If not, what may be the cost of reparation.—The report to be laid before a meeting of the parishioners. If it should appear that the structure is "past surgery," then a new church must be built; and if, the damage not being irreparable, the cost should be so large as to make it a question whether it would not be more advisable to erect a new fabric than to patch up the old one, that question the parishioners must decide. We trust that, taking into account the unsuitableness of the site in the existing state of the borough — the absence of structural beauty — and the folly of expending hundreds of pounds on a church which, when repaired, will still be an unsatisfactory edifice—the parish will accept the present opportunity of securing a more eligible temple on a more eligible site—(say in West-street).

We subjoin a letter addressed to us by one of our townsmen who was not the least active or useful at the fire and explosion, and during the trying hours that have since elapsed :—

Sir, — After nine days, and, I may say, half as many nights, spent in assisting my unfortunate fellow-townsmen who have suffered from the effects of the late fire, I now find my head resuming its proper equilibrium, and am enabled to give you some idea of the scene which took place at St. Mary's church and Church-walk on the morning of the explosion.

At half-past one I looked out of my bedroom window, and observed a great light, which at first I thought was on Newcastle Quay. I immediately dressed myself, and made my way to Church-walk, Gateshead. Here a scene presented itself almost indescribable — men, women, and children, laden with every description of household furniture, issuing from the stairs from Hillgate. Finding the fire so near the church, I entered the yard by the small gate leading to Church-walk, and found it crammed with furniture — beds, straw mattresses, &c. These were in great danger of taking fire. I immediately set the small water tap on, and, with the assistance of several women, filled pails and dishes, and placed them in various parts of the yard, ready to dash on the sparks and balls of fire which were falling thick about us. It was then suggested that the beds and straw mattresses should be removed into the belfry and other parts of the church, to secure them from fire; which suggestion was promptly acted upon by the women. Much fire was at this time falling on the church. I then went up to the roof of the church, where I found the sexton (Mr. Lister) and Mr. Softley engaged in putting out the falling fire with their feet. At this time the sulphur warehouse was burning fearfully. After remaining a short time I thought I might be more useful below. On my return to the yard I found nearly all the beds, &c., under cover and out of danger. A bed lying near the Anchorage School took fire. When the sexton's wife and one of the pew-openers and myself were engaged in extinguishing it, the tremendous explosion took place. In a moment all was dark, and I felt as though my head would leave my body. I was whirled round in the corner below the chancel — but, by a wonderful providence, preserved from any serious blow. As soon as I had control of my thoughts and actions, I rushed to a doorway close by, and stood upright to save myself from the falling missiles, which came down like hail — amongst which were burning timbers, &c., of great size. When all were down, I made search for my companions—who, I was happy to find, had not received a scratch. I found my hat near a mass of burning timber. The silence of death was now upon us for a few moments. I then rushed to the sexton's house, where we had left an infirm old man and some children; and, strange to say, although all the roof had fallen in except about six square feet, they were saved. A bed was on fire in the room, which was speedily extinguished. Then came moans and cries of children, mothers, and fathers. I felt anxious about the sexton and Mr. Softley; but they were shortly with us, safe and sound. They had been blown flat on the roof, but afterwards regained their legs, and scrambled down the dark belfry — which, a few moments before, was as light as day from the fire below. I went to the west end of the church, where I had seen a great many families with furniture. What a fearful sight! Men, women, and children dead and wounded — broken furniture and gravestones in one mass. The church-gates having been blown open, assistance soon came to hand from those who had not received so heavy a shock. The wounded were then conveyed to the dispensary, infirmary, &c., with every possible speed. Not a window was left in our poor old church; and as to the clock, its three faces were blown out, though it was not in itself injured. I returned to the north side, and again prepared my relays of water-dishes and pails; and next went home to see after my own relations, who arrived all safe, shortly after myself. To my dismay, however, I found all our windows broken, and several of my shop-shutters down; which was likewise the case with my neighbours. I returned to the scene to render assistance where it might be wanted.

Gateshead, October 17, 1854. Memento Mori.

Gateshead Poor Law Union. — The fortnightly meeting was held on Oct. 17. Present :—The Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and Messrs. Makepeace, Sowerby, Clark (William), and Murray. The state of the accounts showed that the cheques would not only consume the surplus in the Treasurer's hand, but create a balance against the union of £59 2s. 3d. The Clerk reported that he had procured summonses against the Whickham Churchwardens and Overseers,

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who had paid £69 during the fortnight, leaving £97 still due; and the Magistrates had arranged to issue distress warrants on Tuesday next, if the arrears were not paid in the meantime. On the motion of Mr. Makepeace, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was ordered that, as no necessity existed for the continuance of the regulation as to additional medical assistance in case of Asiatic cholera, it be now rescinded. The Board transacted other business, and proceeded to the relief of the poor.

THE TOWN-COUNCIL OF GATESHEAD.

MAYOR.
†Haggie, David

ALDERMEN.
†Hawks, George
Lister, John
†Pearson, C. J.
†Robson, Joseph
†Smith, James

COUNCILLORS
†Allhusen, Chris.
†Brinton, George
†Cook, William
Crawshay, E.
†Garbutt, C.
†Gray, Alex. Geo.
†Haggie, Peter
†Hewitt, James
†Hodgson, R. W.
Hunter, George
†Hymers, J. A.
Ionn, F. P.
†Patterson, G.
†Prockter, J. B.
†Skelton, John
†Vickers, John
Wilson, James
†Woolston, John

☞ Those marked (†) were present.

On Friday, October 20, a special meeting of the Council and Local Board of Health was held in the Council Chamber of the Townhall, "to consider the most efficient means of altering and improving the streets of the borough, and the expediency of erecting quays, wharfs, and other buildings in Hillgate and Pipewellgate; also, to consider a report of the Public Health Committee, to be then presented, to authorize the purchase of property; and to take such measures, by application to parliament or otherwise, for effecting the purposes aforesaid, and for raising the necessary funds, as may be thought expedient."

The Mayor briefly introduced the business by remarking that after the report of the Public Health Health Committee had been received, he should be happy to hear opinions upon the recommendations therein made. They were called upon to consider whether persons should be allowed to rebuild upon the ruins of the late calamity, or whether a public quay and other improvements should be constructed for the benefit of the borough.

The Town Clerk here stated that he had received a communication from the Tyne Improvement Commissioners, having reference to their proposed removal of Tyne Bridge. They had also appointed a committee to wait upon this Corporation on the subject, who would be in attendance (he said) at three o'clock.

Mr. Ald. Robson presented a report from the Public Health Committee, which was read as follows:—

Your Committtee held a meeting to-day to deliberate on what future measures were to be adopted regarding the destruction of property by the lamentable fire and explosion in Hillgate, and the rebuilding of such property; and have agreed to the following report:—

Deeply deploring the occurrences which have utterly destroyed the extensive buildings, comprising warehouses, manufactories, shops, and dwelling-houses, extending from the Tyne to Churchwalk, and left nothing but the ground encumbered with a mass of rubbish, and which have occasioned a melancholy loss of life, your Committee yet deem the opportunity most invaluable for converting the present narrow, inconvenient, and unhealthy streets in Hillgate and Churchwalk to open quays or wharves and for the erection of counting houses, shops, offices, and warehouses, to meet the daily increasing demands of the manufactories and the extending traffic of the borough.

Your Committee take leave to observe that there is now a railway drop at the east end of Hillgate, in constant use for the shipment and delivery of goods by the North Eastern Railway Company; that the railway company are the present owners of a large space of ground and premises near Churchwalk, which, till recently, formed the Gateshead rectory-house and lands; that the railway company have already a considerable goods station there, and the distance from the railway property to the river Tyne is not more than 60 yards; that the private landing places at Hillgate afford ample draught of water for vessels (and particularly at the east end) for a great length, with sufficient draught of water at the lowest tides; that the railway and the Tyne could, at this point, bring into efficient operation all the facilities which a trunk line of railway and a free public dock can afford to a commercial community.

Your Committee recommend that parliamentary powers shall be applied for during the ensuing session, authorizing the purchase of the several buildings, together with the ground laid bare by the late fire, as shown by the plan of the Surveyor of the Corporation, extending (by the line of the river) from the High Level Bridge in Pipewellgate to the east end in Hillgate, clearing away part of the street, and remodelling the whole space from the closed burial ground of St. Mary's church to the river, with power to erect buildings on the ground, and to sell building sites, or property built, and to demise or let the buildings erected or building ground.

Your Committee also recommend that, in order to facilitate the carrying out of the contemplated improvements, notices be served forthwith upon all owners and occupiers of property within the above boundaries, intimating that a Committee of the Council, to be called "The Gateshead Improvement Committee," be empowered to treat for the purchase of the several properties, and such Committee be accordingly authorized so to do by virtue of the powers now vested in the Council, and that the Committee be nominated by the Council on Friday next.

Your Committee recommend that the plans submitted by the Surveyor be approved, subject to such alterations as the Council and the Gateshead Improvement Committee may from time to time think advantageous; and that the necessary funds be borrowed under parliamentary sanction.

Your Committee suggest that the annual revenue which may be derived from the new erections be in the first instance applied to the payment of interest on the money borrowed, and that all surplus be applied in liquidation of principal to the extent of 2 per cent. per annum; and that any surplus beyond that rate form part of the General Borough Fund.

Your Committee deem it prudent that owners of buildings which have been destroyed have notices promptly served upon them not to rebuild, as the sites of their land will be required for the proposed improvements.

Your Committee recommend that it be an instruction to the Committee proposed to be appointed to confer with the directors of the North Eastern Railway Company; and if they think fit, also with the River Tyne Improvement Commissioners and the Corporation of Newcastle, to obtain their coöperation and secure their assent to the proposed improvements. Joseph Robson, Chairman.

Townhall, Gateshead, 16th October, 1854.

On the motion of Mr. Ald. Robson, seconded by Mr. Brinton, the report was received.

Mr. Ald. Hawks then, in a speech of some length, proposed its adoption. He said the proposed improvement in Hillgate had from time to time been a subject of consideration; and so far back as 25 years ago, when Mr. Brockett and he agitated the question, a company was projected to purchase the street. They went so far as to have the property valued; but their project dropped through, because the gentlemen who proposed it were perhaps rather too young, and wanted strength and influence to carry it out. For a long time, the confused, irregular, confined buildings which formed that locality had been a standing reproach to the town—when, by their removal, a fine quay might be secured, as well as a street more open, airy, and in every respect adding to the commercial advantages of the town. Irrespectively of this, immense benefit

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would be conferred by rendering the town more healthy. He pointed to the favourable opportunity now presented for effecting the improvement. The Local Board of Health possessed certain powers, and it was for them to take the lead. The recent calamity had removed property which they had been unable to remove; and it really seemed as if the site had been absolutely thrown into their hands. The property which remained was of trifling value when compared to what it was before; and the opportunity was altogether one which should not be allowed to slip. They would secure a quay equal to (if not better than) the one at Newcastle, and still have room for a line of buildings for shops and warehouses. He also observed that the moment they had a quay at Gateshead, they would be relieved from half the town and quay dues in Newcastle. He concluded by saying that he had no doubt the Council would have energy and courage to carry out the contemplated improvement. (Applause.)

Mr. PETER HAGGIE seconded the motion.

Mr. PROCKTER, whilst admitting the desirability of the improvement, spoke of the propriety of consulting the feelings of the ratepayers on a scheme of such magnitude; and expressed his fears that it would entail too heavy a burden upon them. Already, under the Board of Health, the rates in this borough were more than double what they were under the Street Commissioners. He had not the least objection to any improvements if they could be carried out without increasing the rates. He proposed an amendment to the effect that a public meeting of the inhabitants and ratepayers be called forthwith, to consider the propriety of forming a joint-stock company, on shareholding principles, to endeavour if possible to purchase sites with a view to the formation of the proposed quays, &c.; and pledging the Council to do its utmost for the execution of so desirable an undertaking. He thought some deference should be paid to the feelings of the ratepayers in the matter.

Mr. HYMERS seconded the amendment. He was anxious to see all things progress in his native town; but a scheme of this kind he could not sanction, unless he saw a prospect of sufficient revenue to warrant the first outlay.

Mr. Ald. PEARSON, Mr. PETER HAGGIE, Mr. COOK, and Mr. HEWITT spoke upon the subject—the latter gentleman requesting Mr. Hall, the town surveyor, to give some idea of the extent and cost of the sites which would be required to be purchased.

Mr. HALL entered into certain explanations, from which we gathered that the area lying between Tyne Bridge and the North Eastern Drops, required for the proposed improvements, comprises 23,741 square yards, 3,738 of which are already public. The contemplated erections would occupy 7,060. The quay would be 375 yards in length. The property utterly destroyed occupies 9,000 square yards of the area.

Mr. PEARSON, a cordial supporter of the project, produced an interesting document, being a memorial signed in 1838 by owners of property in Hillgate, offering to make sacrifices to promote the widening and improvement of that thoroughfare.

In reply to a remark of Mr. COOK, Mr. PROCKTER said the number of shares he would take in such a company as his amendment suggested, would depend upon their price—perhaps 20, 30, or 40.

Mr. ALLHUSEN supported the motion in a speech to which we regret that want of time and space forbids our doing justice. He was perfectly convinced that unless the motion was passed the scheme would never be carried out. He looked upon the amendment as a simple negative of the motion; for it expressed, as distinctly as language could speak, an opinion that, whoever put down their money for the project proposed, would be sure to lose it. They had now an opportunity such as they never had before, and never would have again, of carrying out these improvements; and the Council and the borough would be disgraced throughout the country if they omitted to embrace it. The sum proposed to be expended was certainly not so mighty that even Gateshead could not readily find it. He pointed out the grounds on which a quay at Gateshead, with its railway communication, would undoubtedly be preferred by merchants to one at Newcastle. Every one holding property in Gateshead would undoubtedly be benefited most largely by the quay.

Mr. BRINTON also thought it would be a disgrace to the borough not to avail itself of the opportunity now presented of effecting these improvements.

Mr. A. G. GRAY strongly supported the motion.

Mr. SKELTON thought the adoption of Mr. Prockter's amendment would be highly ridiculous; for if the Council could not enter into such improvements itself, it certainly had nothing to do with recommending them to merchants or others. He proposed, as another amendment, that the decision of the Council on the subject be adjourned, and that, meanwhile, a meeting of the ratepayers be convened for Monday next for the purpose of ascertaining their opinions.

Mr. COOK seconded the motion.

The MAYOR gave the original motion his decided support. It would be a disgrace to the borough and to themselves individually, and their descendants hereafter would reproach them, if this opportunity of effecting such public improvements were allowed to slip. Gateshead had for years wanted such improvements. If the public desired a meeting, he would at once, on a requisition, afford them the opportnity; and he believed they would decide in favour of the project.

Mr. HAWKS and Mr. COOK expressed their conviction that a public meeting, as the Mayor had said, would back the Council.

Mr. GARBUTT warmly supported the motion.

Mr. PROCKTER said he should withdraw his amendment in favour of Mr. Skelton's.

The votes were then taken, and the result was as follows:—

For the Amendment, 4.—Messrs. Skelton, Cook, Prockter, and Hymers.

Against the Amendment, 15.—Messrs. Hawks, Pearson, Allhusen, Haggie, Garbutt, Vickers, Gray, Patterson, Woolston, Brinton, Hewitt, Hodgson, Robson, Smith, and the Mayor.

The amendment was thus lost; and the original motion was put and carried by 15 to 3.

On the motion of Mr. Ald. HODGSON, seconded by Mr. BRINTON, the following gentlemen were appointed the committee to take the necessary steps to facilitate the carrying out of the contemplated improvements:—The Mayor, and Messrs. Allhusen, Hawks, Lister, Skelton, Pearson, and Robson.

The deputation from the Tyne Commission were now introduced, consisting of the Chairman (Joseph Cowen, Esq.), and Messrs. Carr and Ormston, with also Mr. Allhusen.

Mr. COWEN explained that the object of the Tyne

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Commission was to obtain the concurrence of the Gateshead Council (in common with that of Newcastle) in the proposed removal of the old bridge. He recapitulated the heads of the resolutions elsewhere printed, and said that a redemption fund would be formed, which would render the bridge free in a few years.

Mr. ALLHUSEN said, if the improvement were carried out, he had no doubt he should soon see vessels of 200 tons sailing past his residence at Elswick.

Remarks were made by other members of the deputation. Mr. ORMSTON, in reply to a question, said the proposed toll would certainly not exceed a halfpenny per head upon passengers.

In the course of conversation it was stated, as a clue to the probable revenue of the bridge, and the period in which its cost might be defrayed, that the lower portion of the High Level Bridge yielded nearly £3,000 per annum.

The deputation having withdrawn,

Mr. ALLHUSEN moved, and Mr. Ald. PEARSON seconded, a resolution that the Council give its consent to the proposal of the River Tyne Commission.

A conversation followed, the characterizing feature of which was a strong objection to the proposed personal toll, as bearing heavily upon the humbler classes.

Ultimately, Mr. SKELTON moved that the Council give its consent to the proposal, providing no tax were levied upon foot passengers.

Mr. ROBSON seconded the amendment; which was carried without a hand being held up against it.

Mr. HODGSON moved a series of resolutions, condoling with the surviving relatives of those who had perished by the late explosion in the discharge of a public duty, and warmly thanking those who had rendered services to the borough in its emergency.

Seconded by Mr. Ald. ROBSON, and carried unanimously.

The MAYOR, who was especially named in the resolutions, returned thanks; and thus ended one of the most important meetings ever held in Gateshead, and whose proceedings we regret our inability to report at greater length.

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

TO LANDLORDS AND TENANTS.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Town Council of the Borough of Gateshead, at a Meeting held this day, resolved to make application to Parliament, during the ensuing Session, for Power to Purchase and take the several Buildings extending by the River Tyne from the High Level Bridge in Pipewellgate on the West, to the North Eastern Railway Drops in Hillgate on the East, for the purpose of forming Quays or Wharves, and erecting suitable Buildings thereon, or selling the Sites of such Buildings, or demising the Sites or the Buildings when erected.

And that the Committee of the Council appointed this day, and called the Gateshead Improvement Committee, are empowered to treat for the purchase of the several Properties required by the Corporation for the purposes aforesaid, under the existing Powers of the Council.

And the Owners of Buildings destroyed by Fire are hereby cautioned that the Sites of their former Buildings will be required for the projected Improvements, and desired to communicate with the Gateshead Improvement Committee forthwith, stating the Terms upon which they are willing to Sell the said Sites to the Corporation for the Improvement of the Borough.

Dated this 20th day of October, 1854.

By Order,

G. J. KENMIR, Town Clerk.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY. — William Dunn, Esq., has increased his donation to the Building Fund from £2 2s. to £5 5s. James Losh, Esq., has given £5 5s.; Mr. Thomas Jatson and Mr. Thomas Halliday, 10s. each; Messrs. Hepple's Workmen, 10s. 6d.; Messrs. Anderson & Miller, £5 5s.; N. Morriss, Esq., Blue House, Washington, £1 1s.; and James Dale, Esq., £10 10s. Mr. Dale has also given £10 10s. to the general fund of the Dispensary, £10 10s. to the Newcastle Eye Infirmary, and £10 10s. to the Newcastle Dispensary.

EXPLOSION AT THE FELLING.—On Monday, Oct. 16, a scullerman at Walker or Billquay heard a loud explosion, betokening (as he surmised) some serious accident. The explanation is easy. Mr. H. L. Pattinson was making experiments at the Felling Chemical Works, higher up the river. In an iron vessel he placed ten pounds of nitre and five of sulphur, with also a little carbonaceous matter. Fire was applied; a quart of water was poured in; and everybody present retired to a respectful distance. About half-a-minute elapsed, and there were "no effects." Soon however, the liquified mass exploded with a tremendous roar; the vessel was shivered; fragments were thrown to a distance; and the site of the explosion presented the appearance of the Hillgate crater in miniature. We are quite aware that a majority of minds will adhere to gunpowder as the cause of the Hillgate explosion. We are equally certain, however, that if gunpowder had been a newly-invented substance, a majority of minds would have rejected it, also, as the cause, however strong the evidence in its favour. When Mr. Pattinson made known his discovery of a new and better means of extracting silver from lead, it was laughed at. The laugh, however, was all on his side in the long run.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GATESHEAD OBSERVER.

MY DEAR SIR, — I cannot read the harrowing account of the dreadful calamity which has befallen your devoted towns, without offering you my condolence upon the unhappy occasion. It has occasioned in London about as much interest as it could have done had you been situated within a few miles of the metropolis, and the conflagration has been appreciated as one of the most awful with which any community within the range of Great Britain has been ever afflicted.

I enclose a sovereign, to be applied to the relief of the sufferers in any way you think proper.

Yours sincerely,

London, October 13, 1854. E. W. J.

DEAR SIR,—If it cannot be proved that gunpowder was the cause of the late explosion, I think something I have heard may aid in solving the difficulty.

I was told last night that at high tide the water from the river flows into the "crater." If so, its level must be below that of high water.

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I understand also that the hole is below the level of the lowest floor of the warehouse.

Now, generally speaking, at high tide the water percolates through the old quay, and stands below the buildings which may be upon them.

It was high tide about the time of the explosion; and if the water, as was most probably the case, was standing below the lowest floor when the intensely heated mass reached it, steam would be instantly produced, and, pressure being caused by the mass of the water, the soil, &c., on the sides, and from above by the superincumbent mass of fallen matter, all the conditions necessary for the explosion would be found.

Newcastle, October 17. Z.

Sir, — The parties who are now inquiring into the cause of the devastating explosion which took place during the terrific fire at your town, may perhaps not deem it intrusive if I should, through your columns, offer a suggestion regarding it, as forming the not improbable cause of so fearful a catastrophe.

In the progress of the work of destruction, it is not at all improbable that a severance of a gas-pipe took place; and should this have occurred, so as to introduce into a fireproof warehouse room or cellar an escape to the extent of *one tenth of gas* to *nine tenths of atmospheric air*, and this being closely confined until the moment that fire came in contact with it, an explosion would follow with precisely the effect as would arise from *gunpowder*, and with an equally destructive effect. You will see that this is far from improbable; and with such an agent there may not have been any gunpowder whatever in the vicinity.

The terrible consequences which have been felt in London, and in different provincial towns, from gas explosions, are too well recorded to require present proof; and the fact of its power, when in the proportion as given by me, has frequently been made the subject of experiment. In larger or smaller proportions, it is quite safe; but in one case in London so great was the destructive power in an explosion that took place in a shop, that the whole house was literally blown away, and windows broken at least 200 yards from it.

It is a matter of the utmost consequence to endeavour to solve the cause of this catastrophe; and, therefore, I venture to offer these remarks, which may relieve the minds of those interested, and who alone can judge of their value, when having the local evidence before them. I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

Thomas M. Gladstone, C.E.

19, Pallmall, Manchester, October 16, 1854.

Sir,—When your readers consider that water is *formed* and subjected, without decomposition, to the intense heat of the oxy-hydrogen blowpipe—a heat capable of fusing the most refractory substances known—they will be prevented from falling into the error into which your correspondent, Mr. John Fawcett, has fallen—that of believing that water is decomposed by heat alone. Every book on chemistry will teach them that no amount of heat alone will effect its decomposition.

Mr. Fawcett's illustration is as fallacious as his theory. Supposing that the steam in a boiler was decomposed by coming into contact with the red hot iron, there would then be formed oxide of iron and hydrogen gas. This latter would mix with the remaining steam, but is no more explosive without oxygen than common air is by itself.

Even supposing that the warehouse in Hillgate had been filled with oxygen and hydrogen gases in the proportions suitable to produce the greatest explosion, it will be obvious to every one that such dreadful havoc as has been made could not have resulted from an explosion of these gases, when the following well-established facts have been considered:—Two measures of hydrogen and one of oxygen, when exploded, form two measures of steam—the bulk of the gases being reduced one-half less by the explosion.

The whole force of the explosion would be caused by the heat generated suddenly expanding the resulting steam. Supposing this heat to be 4,000 deg. Fahrenheit, then the steam would be expanded to between seven and eight times its bulk.

Such explosions as would be made by the combination of these gases are not unknown or unfrequent. Coal gas explosions are similar; and the effect of these is a few windows broken in the immediate vicinity. But an explosion which has shaken the earth for miles around, and converted whole streets of buildings into heaps of ruins, could not be the result of *gases* expanding into a few times their bulk, but must have been produced by the instantaneous bursting of a solid or liquid into some thousands of times its bulk of gases.

Yours respectfully,

Felling, October 18, 1854. John Pattinson.

Sir,—I see by your paper last week that the Gateshead Dispensary has rendered good service to the sufferers by the fire and explosion. This, Mr. Editor, gives the Dispensary an additional claim to the support of all classes of the inhabitants of the district; and as the committee have purchased a large house, so that Gateshead may have a Dispensary perhaps as good as any in England, I hope those ladies and gentlemen who have not given to the Building Fund yet, will do it now.

I am, Mr. Editor,

A Hearty Well-wisher to the Dispensary.

Gateshead, October 18, 1854.

Sir,—We, the pupils of the Felling Chemical School, presented on Friday, Oct. 13, a gold watch to Mr. Swan, our tutor, towards which the boys that are at the school at present not only contributed, and the boys that have left and gone to situations, but also some gentlemen in the neighbourhood, as you will see from the speech delivered by one of the boys belonging to the school, a copy of which I enclose. Mr. Swan delivered an excellent address, in which he handled nearly all the principal branches of education. He said that the present method of teaching in classes is as much before the old method of teaching as the modern mode of travelling by steam surpasses the ancient way of travelling by coaches; and he also showed the necessity of every school teaching Natural Philosophy and Geometry. He said it had always been his motto, during the nine years and a half that he has taught us, to let us be behind no school, but, if possible, to surpass all. A great many of the children's parents were present during the presentation. He made a great many more excellent remarks in his speech, which I cannot remember exactly; but if you would put this right, and publish it with the address, you would much oblige

A Pupil of the Felling Chemical School.

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THE ADDRESS.

OUR MOST BELOVED MASTER,—I am appointed by my schoolfellows to tell you that we have of late been making a subscription amongst ourselves as the pupils of this school, and also among the pupils who have left the school and have gone to various situations in life, for this present, which we wish you to accept as a small token of gratitude for the most diligent and long continued services you have rendered to the pupils of this school. You have now laboured daily amongst us for the long period of nine years, with unceasing exertions for our welfare; and we adopt this as the only plan of showing our esteem towards you. Wherever we have gone we have always found the people have the greatest affection towards you, which I have no doubt will be a great comfort to you, as it shows that you have not toiled without some success, and that your labours are highly appreciated. We would all have given more had it been in our power; but it makes no matter how little, as long as it is given with a grateful heart. There are some more gentlemen who have contributed towards it. The general answer to our petition when we went was, that you were a worthy man, and that you had done your duty; and they gave us something without any more ceremony, which shows that you are not only esteemed by your pupils, but also by the gentlemen in the neighbourhood who know any thing about you. I conclude by saying, with a common voice, that we wish you health to wear our gift.

☞ We insert this communication just as we have received it, in preference to any paragraph of our own. The testimony to Mr. Swan and the school could not be better borne than in the words of the letter and the address.—ED. G.O.

SIR,—In many towns (Newcastle and Gateshead not excepted), houses and streets have been built upon the accumulated deposits with which old quarries and other hollows have been filled up—upon magazines, in many cases, of foul substances which neither drainage nor ventilation can now reach. Would it not be well if some supervision and control were exercised over such deposits—and building ground not allowed to be formed which some day or other may prove destructive to those who may be located upon it? There are volcanoes besides those of Hillgate, which are equally dangerous to human life; and they should be looked to. X.

Gateshead, October 17, 1854.

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Burgesses enrolled in the several Wards of the Borough will, on Wednesday, the first day of November next, openly assemble in the said Borough, and separately elect from the Persons qualified to be Councillors, TWO COUNCILLORS for each Ward, to supply the place of those Councillors who on that day shall, according to the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Regulations Acts, go out of office.

The Election for each Ward will be held before the Alderman and Assessors thereof at the places undermentioned, which have been appointed for that purpose, that is to say:—

FOR THE EAST WARD.—The Police Court in the Townhall.

FOR THE WEST WARD.—The Magistrates Room in the Townhall.

FOR THE SOUTH WARD.—The National Schoolroom, Kell's-lane, on Gateshead Fell.

The Voting at each Election shall commence at Nine o'clock in the Forenoon, and will finally close at Four o'clock in the Afternoon of the same day; but the Presiding Officer is authorised to close the Poll at at any time before Four o'clock, if one hour shall have elapsed during which no vote shall have been tendered for any Candidate.

G. J. KENMIR, Town Clerk.

Townhall, Gateshead, Oct. 18, 1854.

TO THE MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE SOUTH WARD OF THE BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—The Period for which you elected me your Representative in the Municipal Body of this Borough will expire on the 1st of November next.

I hope that the discharge of my duties may meet your approval, and that no act of mine has sullied the honour or independence of the trust that you reposed in me.

It is with some reluctance, and with more regret, that I feel it incumbent upon me to refrain from again soliciting your suffrages at the ensuing election.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

R. W. HODGSON.

North Dene, October 20, 1854.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE EAST WARD OF THE BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—As the Period for which you elected me a Member of the Town Council will expire on the 1st of November, I beg respectfully to intimate that it is not my intention to solicit a renewal of your suffrages at the ensuing Election. Thanking you for the honour you have twice conferred upon me,

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

JOHN VICKERS.

West-street, October 20, 1854.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE EAST WARD OF THE BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—The Term will expire on the first day of November next for which you did me the honour to elect me as one of your Representatives in the Council of this Borough. I would beg leave again to offer myself as a Candidate for the Office; and, if elected, I trust that the experience of the last three years will enable me more efficiently to discharge those duties which seem now more than ever to call for and demand the most serious attention of those who may be delegated to the important trust. Should I again be honoured with your confidence, rest assured that no effort of mine shall be wanting to secure as much permanent benefit as possible from the late direful Calamity, and to promote the Sanitary Improvement and General Welfare of the Borough.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES HEWITT.

4, King James's-street, Gateshead.

FOUND, late on Tuesday Night, a Dark Bay Pony, 12 hands high. The Owner can have it, by paying expenses, on application to the Ostler at the Turk's Head, Gateshead.

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THE GATESHEAD INQUEST.

On Monday, Oct. 23, the Coroner (J. M. Favell, Esq.), Capt. Du Cane (the representative of the Home Office in the inquiry), the Foreman of the Jury (Mr. John Sowerby), and other gentlemen, were at the Felling Chemical Works betimes, and witnessed several additional experiments, performed by Mr. Hugh Lee Pattinson. Nitre, sulphur, and charcoal, placed in an iron vessel, were set on fire, and burnt with an intense heat. When they were, to a considerable extent, consumed, a small quantity of water was poured in. A few seconds elapsed—six or seven—and then there was a loud and sharp explosion. For the sake of comparison, an equivalent quantity of gunpowder (14lb.) was placed in the same iron vessel. A fuse-line, about 20 feet long, was laid down, with one end inserted among the powder. The other end was then fired; and everybody retired to a most respectful distance, prepared for a severe shock. But when, after the lapse of three or four minutes of suspense, the explosion took place, it was, in comparison with its rival, a mere "fuff."

On Tuesday, Oct. 24, a placard appeared on the walls, offering £20 reward. After an allusion to the calamity, it went on to say:—"As it is desirable and fitting to ascertain the cause of the explosion, the above reward will be paid to any one who will give the required information, so that the offender or offenders may be proceeded against according to law." £100 has also been offered by "some" of the insurance companies.

Professor A. S. Taylor, of Guy's Hospital, (who fills the chairs of Chemistry and Medical Jurisprudence,) arrived in Gateshead on Tuesday, having been sent down by the Government to assist the jury in coming to a right conclusion, and quickly made himself acquainted with all the facts and circumstances of the fire and explosion. It will be seen that, in his evidence on Thursday, he ignored by his art the presence of gunpowder at the explosion, and assigned it to a rapid evolution of gases in the vault containing sulphur and superincumbent nitre, creating a mechanical pressure inconceivably greater than the force which rends a locomotive engine, and hurls its fragments in the air:—an explanation which has to contend, in some minds, with the fact that the chamber had an open doorway 9 feet by 4, leading into a shed only separated from the open quay by a sliding gate.

On Wednesday, Oct. 25, the remains of Mr. George Hamilton, of Church-street, carpenter, (nephew of Mr. Charles Hamilton, hairdresser,) were found in the ruins in an advanced state of decomposition. He had been buried in the wreck of a house on Hillgate-banks, nearly opposite St. Mary's church. Deceased was 30 years of age—a married man with a family.

The Coroner and jury resumed their respective places in the Townhall on Thursday, Oct. 26, at 10 o'clock. Capt. Du Cane, R.E., Capt. Cooke, R.E., H. L. Pattinson, Esq., Professor Alfred S. Taylor, the Town Clerk, the Town Surveyor, the Newcastle Coroner, George Hawks, Esq., Ralph Wake, Esq., Matthias Dunn, Esq., W. Hymers, Esq., James Pollock, Esq., Edward Glynn, Esq., and other gentlemen were on the bench.

The Coroner briefly addressed the jury, intimating that Mr. Schorey had continued his researches, and got little or no evidence, of any value, as to the existence of gunpowder on the premises at the time of the explosion. One or two witnesses would be examined on this subject, and the jury would judge as to the worth of their testimony. Professor Taylor, sent down by Lord Palmerston, was in court, and he had the pleasure of introducing him to the jury. He would give evidence before them, and Mr. Pattinson would also state the result of some further experiments which he had made.

Mr. Schorey produced a bottle, containing, he said, some of the liquid found at the bottom of the crater in Hillgate. It was got by P.C. Leech, Professor Taylor having expressed a wish to have a bottleful of it. (Leech afterwards identified the bottle.) Professor Taylor had also got a piece of the coat worn by P.C. Scott when he was killed by the explosion. Mr. Schorey likewise stated that Robert Pattison, one of the sufferers by the explosion, died on the 20th inst. He was an apprentice with Hill & Drury in Newcastle, and was standing on the Quayside when the explosion occurred. He died at home, in Wrekenton. He (Mr. Schorey) had further to report the discovery of the body of George Hamilton, joiner, aged 30. His remains were found on Wednesday morning, on Hillgate banks, among the ruins.

Mr. H. L. Pattinson was now recalled. He said:—In my evidence on a former day, I stated, with reference to gunpowder, that 253 grains would produce 316·25 cubic inches of permanent gas; and that 253 grains of water would produce 1,728 cubic inches of steam. Now I reckoned the gas from gunpowder at the mean temperature and pressure, and the steam at the temperature of 212 deg. But I did not think it necessary to take into account the greatly increased expansive force conferred on the gases from gunpowder by the heat of the explosion, because I expected that the steam might be expanded in at least as great a ratio by the intense heat of the chamber into which I supposed the water to have obtained access. It might, indeed, have been heated to a much higher degree. Since I last gave evidence I have made several further experiments on the action of water on incandescent nitre and sulphur, some of which I will proceed to detail. In an iron pot, 14¼ inches in diameter and 12 inches deep, I placed 10lb. of nitrate of soda, 5lb. of sulphur, and 1lb. of coal in powder. 30 seconds after the mixture was set on fire, the mass being in most intense ignition, I added 2¼lb. of water. No effect took place for 5 or 10 seconds. But, just as my assistants and I were approaching the pan, a most tremendous explosion took place, which was heard for miles round, and shook all the houses in the neighbourhood. The iron pan, nearly half an inch thick, was broken into nine fragments, and its bottom forced six inches into the solid earth on which it was placed—the earth all round the pan being forced outwards, so as to form the appearance of a crater. A similar experiment I repeated many times, generally with the same results, except that the pan was not always broken to pieces. It has not always been essential, in these experiments, that the water should all go in together. There is generally a pause before the explosion, *after* the last addition; and sometimes I have poured in the water at intervals, and after adding the water the explosion has followed. When a little charcoal, or small coal, has been added to the nitrate of soda and sulphur, we have not perceived any smell of gunpowder from the explosion. To

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throw some light on the question whether nitrate of soda and charcoal will explode with water, I mixed 15lb. of nitrate and 5lb. of coarse charcoal. When these were set on fire, they burnt with tremendous and even dangerous energy; and when at the fiercest, I added 2½lb. of water. There was no explosion—but a spluttering. After the lapse of about ten seconds, an explosion took place—not very loud—and all the contents of the pan were thrown out. Gunpowder is composed of 75 nitrate of potash, 15 charcoal, and 10 sulphur. 75 nitrate of potash is equivalent to 68·6 of nitrate of soda. I mixed 10½lb. of nitrate of soda with 2½ of charcoal, and added 2lb. of water, being the proportions in gunpowder. There was no explosion. I then again mixed 10½lb. of nitrate of soda, 2½lb. charcoal, and 1lb. water, and in about 20 seconds there was a loud explosion. I made numerous explosions, varying the mixture and the proportions. I mixed 10½lb. of nitrate of soda, 2½ of charcoal, and 1½ of sulphur—the proportions of gunpowder. The mixture burnt furiously; and when the deflagration was subsiding, I added 2lb. of water, but there was no explosion. The rough mixture of the materials of gunpowder produce no explosion of themselves when set on fire; and if roughly mixed together in the warehouse, there would have been no explosion, but intense deflagration. I placed 14lb. of gunpowder in an iron pan, similar to those used in my other experiments, and also sunk in the ground in the same way. I fired the gunpowder by means of a fuse. There was a great mass of flame and smoke, and a loud puff, but no detonation whatever. The iron pan was not at all disturbed. The reports from my experiments with water were deafening. My impression still is, as I said before, that if water, in sufficient quantity, should have found its way, by any means, into the vault, it would come in contact with the highly incandescent salts, when steam of resistless force would be instantaneously generated, and this would occasion the explosion. — (By Mr. Prockter: I have found, as I have already said, that an explosion will ensue when the water is not all poured in together, and at the same moment. At the request of Capt. Du Cane, I put 10lb. of nitrate of soda and 6lb. of sulphur into the iron pan; and when the combustion was going on fiercely, water was sprinkled upon it carefully, for about two minutes, by means of the hose of an engine, when a loud explosion took place, resembling the others in character, but not quite so loud, and all the materials were projected from the pan.—By Capt. Du Cane: I have found it difficult to get explosions with equal quantities of nitre and sulphur. But this I ascribe to the temperature of the pan not being high enough. As this rose it became more easy to explode equal quantities. — By Mr. Thompson: Difference of mass would greatly affect the results; but with a preponderance of sulphur I should think there would be no explosion.—By Mr. Hymers: I cannot say how long it might be before an explosion would follow the access of water by percolation through the floor or arch. It is impossible to say what the circumstances would be in such a case as this.—By Mr. Golightly: I hardly think the water flowing in from the Tyne caused the explosion. — By Capt. Du Cane: I said before that 52½ cubic feet of water would be equivalent to eight tons of gunpowder. That would depend on whether the steam acquired the temperature of exploding gunpowder, and consequently its expansive orce. If it did not, then more than 52½ cubic feet would be required to exert the force of 8 tons of gunpowder; but, as I have said already, it was probably heated to a much higher degree.)

Professor Taylor was now examined. I reside (he said) in St. James's-terrace, Regent's Park, London, and am a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Fellow of the Royal Society, and Professor of Chemistry and Medical Jurisprudence in Guy's Hospital — which office I have held during the last 23 years. At the desire of Viscount Palmerston I have come down to Gateshead to investigate the circumstances, and if possible to determine by chemical science the cause, of the explosion by which such an amount of destruction of life and property has been occasioned in these towns. In company with Capt. Du Cane, Mr. Schorey, and others, I have visited the site of the explosion, and have accurately inspected the locality, as far as the present state of the ruins will permit. I have collected samples from various parts of the premises, including the stones, timber, water, and other substances, with a view of determining whether there were any traces of gunpowder, or of the salts resulting from the explosion of gunpowder, contained therein. I have minutely examined the water from the centre of what is termed the crater, the alleged seat of the explosion. I find in it no substance characteristic of gunpowder. The water contained, besides oxide of iron, nitrate of soda, common salt, alum, and sulphate of soda, in large quantities. There were no salts of potash. If there had been, I should have inferred the presence of gunpowder. This sample of water was given to me by Mr. Schorey. I procured from the crater a mass of sulphur, fused, which, on chemical examination, I found to be incorporated with nitrate of soda, showing that these substances had been fused together and burnt together. I have had an opportunity of inspecting the clothes of Thomas Scott, the policeman, who is said to have been near the spot at the time of the explosion, and was killed. The clothes present only one or two patches indicative of burning, which appear to have been occasioned by burning sulphur that had fallen on them. Gunpowder would have singed the clothes generally, by reason of the flame which is given out during the combustion of gunpowder. Of this there can be no doubt. I conclude, from all these experiments, that there is a total absence of all chemical evidence of the presence of gunpowder. Gunpowder would have left traces of potash, and I can nowhere find any in connection with this explosion. I am of opinion that the effects are such as might have been produced by the explosion of gunpowder stored within the vault forming the centre or focus of what is called the crater. By the effects I mean the destruction of the surrounding buildings by the explosion. At the same time, in the absence of all evidence of gunpowder being on the premises, and in the entire absence, chemically speaking, of any traces of that substance or its products on the surrounding buildings, I am of opinion that the materials said to have been contained in the vault, the focus of the explosion, viz., the nitrate of soda and sulphur, might, under the circumstances, have led to the explosion and its lamentable results. Assuming there were stored on the floor of the vault 47 tons of sulphur, covered with tarpauling, and 45 tons of nitrate of soda in bags up to within a foot of the

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ceiling, and assuming further that this mixture ignited, and burnt with rapidity during the conflagration, and that the gases evolved, sulphurous acid and nitrogen, could not obtain a free escape in proportion to the rapidity with which they were produced, then it is my belief that the quantity of gases thus evolved, combined with the increased expansile force which they would acquire from the high temperature around them, and as a result of the combustion of the sulphur and nitrate, would in my opinion suffice to account for the explosion and its results. I find by calculation that the quantity of suphurous acid and nitrogen set free by this combustion, from about half a ton of sulphur and a quarter of a ton of nitrate of soda, amounts to 12,570 feet, calculated at the ordinary temperature of the air; but as the height of combustion is equal to the melting point of copper—that is to say, about 2,000 degrees of Fahrenheit—the expansion of the gases would probably increase this volume to 281,000 cubic feet. If a ton of sulphur and half a ton of nitre were consumed before the explosion occurred, then the amount of gas, calculated from the temperature of combustion, would be equal to 562,000 cubic feet. Even this represents the combustion of only about one-ninetieth part of the sulphur and nitrate of soda said to have been stored in the vault or chamber. If this enormous volume of gas could escape in proportion as it was produced, there would be no explosion; but if by accident there were an obstacle to the free escape, or if the gases were produced with extreme rapidity, by very intense combustion, then all the effects of this explosion might readily occur. Slow combustion would not have produced these effects. In the vault referred to, the dimensions are stated to have been 20 feet by 16, and 14 feet in height. This would give a capacity of 4,480 cubic feet. It seems that it was closely filled with the sulphur and nitrate to within a foot of the ceiling, leaving therefore only about 320 cubic feet of vacant space at the top of the chamber. This space would be increased as the substances were melting or burnt; and an allowance of one-third of the whole space may therefore be made in reference to this calculation. This would give 1,490 feet for the gases to accumulate in. This is about 138th of the volume the gases would occupy. Therefore if there were no space to allow of their escape, the gases would be under a pressure of 380 atmospheres. This is equivalent to 5,700 lbs. on the square inch. Allowing that the pressure was reduced to 80 atmospheres by the partial diffusion in the adjoining chamber, still this would represent a force of 1,200 lbs. pressure on the square inch, which is twelve times greater than the pressure in a locomotive boiler before explosion. On this theory of the cause of the explosion, it is assumed that only one-ninetieth part of the contents of the vault was actually consumed at the time of its occurrence. But if one-fifth or one-sixth of the contents of the vault had been converted to gases, which is not an improbable condition in this intense conflagration, the relief given by the diffusion of the gases would be more than compensated, and this would fully account for the tremendous effects. It must be further noticed that the adjoining chambers are represented to have contained a large quantity of sulphur and nitrate of soda. The vaults would therefore become a complete mine of solids, rapidly converted by heat to gases, capable by their quantity and great expansion of shattering everything around them.—(By Mr. Lishman: The rain that fell before the bottle of water was procured from the crater need not be taken into account in this inquiry. The rain would not have removed the salts of potash had they been present. Nor would the rain, or the water from the fire engines, affect the indications on the spot, so as to interfere with my researches. There is some white paint on a marine store dealer's premises enabling me to form a conclusion as to whether the explosion was caused by gunpowder. It is of no consequence that the engines and the rain may have washed this painted wood, it would still tell the same tale. Had the explosion been caused by gunpowder, the sulphate of potassium given out would have browned this paint; just as you may any of you turn a glazed address card brown, by exposing it to a slight explosion of gunpowder. I was minute in my researches, and could find no traces of salts of potash in or about the water, or anywhere in connection with the building. I found in the water of the crater an abundance of sulphate of soda, of which, according to the list furnished to me, there was none in the warehouse before the explosion. The presence of this substance, the result of the combustion of the sulphur and the nitrate of soda, assists in confirming me in my conclusions as to the cause of the explosion. The clothes of the policeman Scott I examined with an expectation that they might lead me to conclude gunpowder to have been the cause of his death, but the evidence which they gave tended in a contrary direction. — By Capt. Du Cane: Had the explosion been caused by an expansion of steam under high pressure, I think there would have been marks of scalding on some of the bodies.)

Mr. R. H. Wilson (recalled): I examined about twenty bodies. There were no marks of scalding on any one of them. Some were much burnt—charred—but none scalded, as I have seen bodies in cases of explosion by steam.

Professor Taylor remarked upon the peculiar conjunction of circumstances which had resulted in the late disastrous calamity — the presence of about 90 tons of sulphur and nitrate of soda, in about equal quantities, in an underground chamber, enclosed by strong stone walls. — (Smith, the warehouseman, described the chamber and its three ashlar walls a yard thick — the fourth wall, of brick, being built against the solid earth of the street.) — The sulphur, continued the doctor, was lying undermost, and sulphur, as everybody knew, was one of the most ignitible substances known. The nitre being over the sulphur, it would, to a certain degree, protect the wooden floor above from the action of the sulphur vapour; and before this could be ignited, the explosion, in his belief, took place. It was the unfortunate circumstance in this case that the sulphur was at the bottom of the vault. It would immediately ignite, and there would be a mass of burning material at the bottom of the vault. Burning upwards, it would meet the nitrate of soda, and produce an enormous amount of heat. Nitrate of soda was a remarkably fusible substance, and it would fall in a melted state on this intensely heated sulphur. This would produce an enormous extrication of gas. This gas would be expanded by intense heat — a heat sufficient to melt copper—resulting from the combustion of these two substances. There would be set free half a million of cubic feet of gas, which must find space for

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itself; or, if not, it would blow to pieces the building in which it was confined. — (By the Jury: The combustion of two tons of the materials, amounting only to a 46th part of the contents of the chamber, would fully account for all that he had seen and heard regarding the explosion. — By the Coroner: In his judgment, it was most unsafe to store in a warehouse large quantities of sulphur or charcoal anywhere near nitrate of soda, nitrate of potash, or any other nitrate — these mixtures, when exposed to fire, producing gases of the most destructive kind. When they did not cause destruction of life and property by explosion, they tended, by their intense combustion, to the destruction of all buildings near and around them.)

In regard to the circumstance of there being a door to the chamber, Professor Taylor argued that, in a case where gases were rapidly generated, such an outlet would be of no practical effect; and he illustrated his position by a reference to an accident which befel him in an experiment some time ago, when a Florence flask, containing chloride of potash, exploded in his hand, on the introduction of a light, although there was a door of escape — the mouth — standing open. — (By Mr. Hymers: Did not think that any quantity of water that could possibly reach the burning contents of the vault would produce such an explosion as had actually occurred. Mr. Pattinson had produced violent explosions by the introduction of water to incandescent nitre and sulphur, but the circumstances were very different. You could not expect that the conditions necessary to Mr. Pattinson's success would exist at the fire. He had measured the stone projected into Oakwellgate. His explanation of the explosion would, he thought, fully account for the projection of so ponderous a missile to the point at which it was found. A pressure of 5,700lb to the square inch would account for anything of the kind. The explosion was of the most extraordinary character, and called for an extraordinary cause. — By Mr. Thompson: The general extinction of the gas-lights would be accounted for by the sulphurous acid; and so, also, would be the effects produced upon the people in the vicinity, as explained to him by Mr. Schorey, who told him he was almost choked.)

Dr. Taylor read the following jottings, presenting at a glance his views as to the several explanations of the explosion which have been suggested:—

FOR GUNPOWDER.

The effects produced. Suddenness and violence of explosion. Apparently no other cause.

AGAINST GUNPOWDER.

1. No direct evidence of its presence.
2. No body of flame seen at instant of explosion.
3. No traces of burning by gunpowder on the bodies of the dead. Blackening of the face might be explained by the abundance of fine sooty and carbonaceous matter.
4. No traces in any part. Many substances analyzed—no salts of potash found.
5. Must have occurred in the vault. The water examined—no nitrate or sulphate of potash—only sulphate of soda, salt, alum.
6. None in the rock of formed sulphur remaining. Analyzed, and found to contain soda salts—no potash salts.
7. Stains of sulphate of potassium on white lead paint of marine store — blackened or browned permanently all over—if gunpowder.
8. No burning or appearances of powder on clothes of Policeman Scott.

FOR AQUEOUS VAPOUR.

The effects. Suddenness and violence of explosion.

AGAINST IT.

1. A large quantity of water—say one or two tons—must have been suddenly converted into steam to produce the effects.
2. How could this have entered the vault in such a volume at once? How could it have accumulated to explode all at once in a quantity sufficient to account for the tremendous explosion? No boiler or vessel to enclose it until it had reached its maximum of pressure.
3. At the moment of explosion, clouds of steam would have been visible. The bodies near would have presented marks of scalding.

FOR THE MIXTURE OF GASES THEORY.

1. Adequate quantity of gas produced.
2. Produced in a close chamber, nearly full of the material.
3. Sulphurous acid and nitrogen the only gases formed.
4. By ordinary combustion, gases slowly produced.
5. By rapid combustion of a ton in a few minutes under intense heat, the volume given out and expanded would be so rapidly produced as to account for the effects.
6. No flame in explosion. All flame extinguished.
7. Smell of sulphurous acid.

Mr. Golightly observed, that the explosion was not unaccompanied by flame.—(A correspondent writes:—"Suddenly, as I stood on the Windmill Hills, there was a bright light, more powerful than anything of the kind I ever witnessed before; and in a short time—a few seconds—the explosion took place. There was then smoke, and the air was filled with burning masses of all kinds.")

During the inquiry, attempts were made to arrive at a correct knowledge of the structural details of the vaulted chambers of the warehouse—the Town Surveyor, who had been over the building before the fire, and the warehouseman (Percival Smith), doing their best to inform the court. No plan, it appeared, was forthcoming, if one ever existed; and Capt. Du Cane, who took an active part in the inquiry, observed that nothing had more embarrassed the investigation than the absence of an authentic plan.

The doorway of the chamber in which the explosion occurred, was, it appeared, on the north side, fronting the Tyne; and Professor Taylor observed that the position of this aperture threw light upon the explosion. The vault was, in fact, a mortar, of which Hillgate was the breech and the doorway the muzzle; and the fiery discharge was in the direction of Newcastle, with a tremendous kick in the direction of Gateshead.

John Shields, who gave evidence in Newcastle on Monday, was examined, and with equally unsatisfactory results. He now denied that Peter Brown was at the warehouse when he assisted the boatman to deliver the six kegs. It was, he said, another time that he saw Brown there, He could not say how long since, not to three or four years.

Alexander Drummond repeated his evidence of Monday, and, in explanation of his *alias* of "The Tinker," said there were very few people on the Quayside without nicknames. ("Scotch Jock," it was stated, emigrated prior to the time when, according to Drummond, he was assisting to deliver gunpowder in Hillgate.)

Mr. Schorey stated that he had information as to a number of other persons who had been named as able to give evidence touching gunpowder, and who had been seen, and their ability to afford assistance in the inquiry investigated.

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The Coroner, holding in his hand a written paper, said it embodied the result of Mr. Schorey's inquiries, and contained no evidence whatever in proof of gunpowder having been at the warehouse at the time of the explosion. He would now leave the matter in the hands of the jury. If they wished for further evidence, he would have witnesses summoned, or if, being satisfied, they would, nevertheless, prefer an adjournment, and have the evidence summed up on a future day, he would adjourn the inquiry. He was prepared to sum up then, or to take any other course which they might think proper.

The jury held a consultation, and expressed a desire for an adjournment. — Adjourned to Thursday, November 2.

Five more deaths have occurred in Newcastle Infirmary, viz. :—James Nicholson, of Gateshead, aged 7, (skull fractured in St. Mary's churchyard); John Wheatley, skinner, Gateshead, 35, (wounds and fractures leading to tetanus); John Gough, Gateshead, 33, (fractures and burns); James Dixon, Tuthill-stairs, Newcastle, 35, (burns); and Michael Dunn, Gateshead, 31, (fissure of skull and other wounds). Total deaths in the infirmary, 15.

THE GATESHEAD EXPLOSION.

Dr. Taylor presents his compliments to the Editor of the *Gateshead Observer*, and will feel obliged by his insertion of the subjoined letter to Mr. Favell, the Coroner.

Newcastle, October 26, 1854.

Dear Sir,—In that part of my deposition which refers to the amount of nitrate of soda supposed to have been consumed with the sulphur, in order to produce the gases mentioned, I find on comparison with my notes that the amount is understated.

Thus, half a ton of sulphur would consume a ton and a third of nitrate, and one ton of sulphur would consequently take two tons and six-tenths of nitrate. These would make the proportions of the materials consumed in the chamber about 1-50th and 1-25th part of the total contents.

This does not at all alter or affect in any way the conclusions which I have drawn, because in my opinion considerably more than these proportions were actually consumed in this intense conflagration. (See the latter part of the deposition.) Still, it will be as well to make the correction of these figures, as I by no means wish to under-estimate the amount of material supposed to have been consumed. There was quite enough consumed, in my judgment, to produce all the effects caused by the explosion; and this I apprehend is the main question.

I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,

J. M. Favell, Esq., Coroner. Alfred S. Taylor.

THE RUINS ON THE RIVER.

The ruins still continue to be an object of interest, and strangers may constantly be seen wandering to and fro, gazing on the wreck.

The Quayside chares have been cleared of rubbish, and you may now walk among the skeletons and fragments of the old mediæval structures—where may be observed Quayside merchants and traders musing like Marius upon piles of ruins—all that remains of their wonted haunts.

At Fenwick's-entry, the Quayside is restored to its primitive verdure, a luxuriant crop of corn having sprung up in a hot-bed—on a site innocent of vegetation for centuries.

There are temporary erections on the quay for the use of men of business. A wooden hut, occupied by Mr. Naylor, the hairdresser, bears the inscription of "The Postoffice"—the branch-establishment being in the Arcade.

In Gateshead, the walls of Mr. Davidson's mill have been overthrown. Some little impression has been made on the mountains of rubbish; the crater has been cleared out; pig-iron, uninjured, has been got out in considerable quantity; pigs of lead have also been recovered to a large extent, but partially melted; and many tons of lead have been wasted.

GATESHEAD QUAY.

The public quay and improvements contemplated by the Corporation of Gateshead are calculated to effect striking changes in the riverside property contiguous to Tyne Bridge. The Corporation have wisely determined to make application to parliament in the ensuing session for full and effective powers to carry out the project.

The whole of the buildings on the east side of Bridge-street and Church-street, to the churchyard of St. Mary's, and extending down the river to the goods drop of the North Eastern Railway Company, are intended to be cleared away, and will give place to a block of buildings, at the distance of about 100 feet from the edge of the river, having a frontage running parallel with the course of the Tyne, and extending upwards of 1,126 feet in length. These buildings will be five stories high and 52 feet wide. The north or river elevation will be a noble and commanding front; and the south elevation will form the front of another street 45 feet wide, connecting Church-street with Oakwellgate. This street will have its level in Church-street, near the bottom of the Bottle-bank, and will have the easy gradient of 1 in 26. On the south side of this street there will be a block of buildings four stories high, adjoining to and extending the whole length of St. Mary's church-yard. The level of this street is considerably higher than the level of the surface of the quay; and in order to afford facilities for passengers to reach the quay from the street and districts immediately above, a spacious flight of stairs will be provided, to give communication with the quay below.

The width of the Quay, from the front of the buildings to the edge of the river, will be found sufficient for the traffic of the street, and to afford ample space and convenience for merchandise in the shipping and delivery of goods.

On the surface of the quay will be laid two lines of tramway, running from end to end of the quay, and communicating with the goods drop of the North Eastern Railway. The rails will be "bridge rails," and laid flush with the surface of the quay. Over the lines of tramway will be erected commodious sheds for the temporary storing of merchandise.

At suitable distances, hydraulic cranes will be placed for the expeditious working of the traffic on the quay; and at proper intervals landing stairs will be constructed from the surface of the quay down to the river, giving passengers easy access to boats at all states of the tide.

The River Tyne Improvement Commissioners have opportunely resolved to throw a wider bridge across the river a little to the westward of the existing fabric. Simultaneously, therefore, with the works which are undertaken by the Gateshead Corporation for the accommodation of the merchants and shipowners in the shape of wharf and warehouse facilities,

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the clearance of the stream of the river from the huge and numerous piers or "starlings" of the present bridge, will be the means of giving a very considerable increase of depth of water. To carry out the approach to the new bridge, it will necessarily follow that the buildings in Pipewellgate, extending from the old bridge to the High Level Bridge, will be cleared away; and the Commissioners and the Council will no doubt properly and satisfactorily define the junction of the separate undertakings in this neighbourhood.

It must never be forgotten that along with the mercantile character of the undertaking the project involves a sanitary improvement of the locality of the most satisfactory nature.

It is therefore to be hoped that the energetic efforts of the Council will bring the works to a speedy and successful issue, leading as well to the health as to the prosperity of the borough.

WILLIAM HALL, C.E., Borough Surveyor.

Mr. Dobson's plans for Newcastle, now under the consideration of a Committee of Council, comprise a street from the Sandhill to Pandon, parallel with the Quayside, and three lateral streets — with a glass-roofed area for purposes of 'change. Pilgrim-street and Trafalgar-street will each be continued to the Quayside.

The Bishop of Durham liberally offers £600 for the erection of a new parish church, and £300 in case the old church is repaired. His lordship also subscribes £150 to the Relief Fund, £50 to the Newcastle Infirmary, and £25 to the Gateshead Dispensary. The sums which his lordship is thus prepared to contribute in connection with the late melancholy catastrophe, altogether exceed £800.

1853 AND 1854.—Recurring Autumn has brought round its sombre harvest of widowhood and weeds—of orphanage and suffering. Last year, the Board Room in Gateshead was besieged by applicants for aid from the Cholera Relief Fund; and the recipients of that bounty are still subsisting on their weekly doles. This year, the Board Room is again beset by women in mourning, burnt out of one of the localities in which Cholera delighted, or otherwise affected by the fearful fire and explosion of the 6th inst. Some have lost their husbands or parents—others have relatives lying burnt or wounded, or both, in the Newcastle Infirmary. The body of one of the dead, George Hamilton, carpenter, was got out of the ruins only on the 25th inst.; and he, a young man in the prime of life, has left a widow and orphans. The sufferers are Legion. Upwards of 400 have applied in Gateshead, and 226 have had their claims acknowledged. A notion has got abroad that already a larger fund has been collected than is needed. It is an erroneous notion. Those who once entertained it are giving it up. Those who know the facts (and the number of such persons is increasing) know that the fund is very inadequate to the emergency; and we regret that a more general effort has not been made to swell the amount.

GATESHEAD TOWN-COUNCIL. — Alderman Robson attended 19 of the 20 meetings of Council held in the past municipal year; Alderman Smith, 19; Councillor Brinton, 19; Councillor Hewitt, 18; Councillor Hodgson, 17; Alderman Haggie (Mayor), 16; Councillor Cook, 16; Councillor Ionn, 15; Councillor Patterson, 14; Councillor Hymers, 13; Councillor Vickers, 12; Councillor Skelton, 12; Councillor Crawshay, 11; Councillor Wilson, 11; Councillor Peter Haggie, 10; Councillor Gray, 10; Alderman Lister, 9; Alderman Hawks, 9; Alderman Pearson, 9; Councillor Allhusen, 5; Councillor Hunter, 4; Councillor Garbutt, 1. Councillors Prockter and Woolston have not been a year in office. At all the meetings held since their election they have been present.

THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.—The annual election of Councillors, at which the burgesses have the opportunity afforded them of making changes, if they choose, in the composition of their representative bodies, will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 1. Matters stand thus in Gateshead :—

WEST WARD.

Mr. Bryan John Prockter a candidate for reëlection.
Mr. Cornelius Garbutt retires and resigns.
Mr. George Crawshay offers himself.

EAST WARD.

Mr. James Hewitt stands again.
Mr. John Vickers retires and resigns.
Mr. W. Aspdin and Mr. William Dingwall are candidates.

SOUTH WARD.

Mr. Edmond Crawshay stands again.
Mr. R. W. Hodgson stands again.
Mr. Thomas Welford offers himself; and also Mr. George Miller, of Hills-street.

Mr. Dingwall, while favourable to improvement, would "consult the ratepayers' opinion" before going on with the Hillgate project. Very well! the ratepayers will give Mr. Dingwall their opinion on Wednesday. We shall then see whether they are favourable to the timid proposal of Mr. Prockter, or to the more manly and independent course adopted by the Council, who have acted, as becomes the chosen representatives of the burgesses, on their own judgment—leaving it to their constituents to express their sentiments in such way as they may think proper, if they feel called upon to interfere. We wait the decision of the ratepayers of the East Ward.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY. — The Treasurer (Mr. Kimpster) desires us to acknowledge the following new subscriptions to the Building Fund :—

Abbot's Forge, Anchor, and Chain Department	£11	15	0
Jonathan Robson's Workmen, Blackwall	3	1	0
John Lister's Workmen	1	0	0
Workmen of the Tyne Papermill	1	0	0
Thomas Pearson's Workmen	1	1	0
Newall & Co.'s Workmen	3	0	0
R. Sanderson	0	10	0
George Pattison	0	10	0
Edward Hedley	1	1	0
John Rennoldson	1	1	0
John Anderson, Newcastle	2	2	0
Joseph Colling, London	10	0	0
Joseph Price & Co.	5	5	0

THE EXPLOSION AND THE REWARD.—In addition to an anonymous offer of a reward of £20 for information leading to the discovery of the cause of the Gateshead explosion, (a reward which, looking to the terms of the placard, might be claimed by Professor Taylor or Mr. Pattinson,) "some of the fire insurance companies" have offered £100 for information which may cause "the conviction of the offender or offenders, in the event of gunpowder having been illegally kept in Bertram's warehouse." One of our Newcastle contemporaries state that "the Corporation of Gateshead offer" the "reward of £20." We know not on what authority the statement is made.

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TO THE
MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE SOUTH WARD
OF THE
BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—Mr. Hodgson having announced his intention of withdrawing from the Town Council, a vacancy will thereby be occasioned in the representation of your Ward.

After mature consideration, I have resolved to accede to the request of a number of highly influential Voters, by becoming a Candidate for your Suffrages on the 1st of November.

My own interest in the general prosperity and improvement of the Borough, as well as that of my family, afford some guarantee, I trust, that, if elected, my best exertions shall be devoted to your service; and, having the necessary leisure, I shall be able to appropriate a large portion of my time to a zealous prosecution of my public duties—of the great importance of which, at this eventful period, I beg to assure you I feel duly sensible.

If, therefore, I should be so far honoured with your confidence as to be chosen one of your Representatives, I shall endeavour to the utmost of my power to deserve its continuance.

I remain, Gentlemen, yours respectfully,
THOS. WELFORD.

Stewart's-place, Gateshead, Oct. 24, 1854.

TO THE
MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE SOUTH WARD
OF THE
BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—Mr. Hodgson having announced his intention to resign as your Representative, I respectfully offer myself as a Candidate for the Office on the 1st of November.

In thus offering myself, I may briefly state, though I am not opposed to the Powers that the Council have resolved to obtain from Parliament in making Alterations on the Northern Boundary of the Borough, you may rely that I will endeavour to adjust the Expenditure necessarily associated with the Improvements, so that those who are immediately interested in the change shall be the largest contributors.

In other matters, which occupy the attention of the Electors generally, I am inclined to think my views are in unison with your own; and should I have the honour of being returned as your Representative, I will invariably consult your wishes in the discharge of the Duties connected with the Office to which I aspire,

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,
GEORGE MILLER.

Hills-street, October 26, 1854.

ELECTION FOR THE SOUTH WARD
OF GATESHEAD.
TO R. W. HODGSON, ESQ.

SIR,—We, the undersigned Municipal Electors of the South Ward of the Borough of Gateshead, have heard with much regret of your intention not to offer yourself for reëlection; and, deeply sensible of the value of your services, and of the faithful manner in which you have discharged your duties, both to this Ward and the Borough generally, during the time you have been our Representative in the Town Council, beg most respectfully to request you to reconsider the matter, and allow yourself to become a Candidate at the approaching Election on the first day of November next.

John Edward	Stephen Richardson
George Patterson	George Proud
Benjamin Swalwell	Parmella Summerbell
John Thompson	John Hopper
Andrew Thompson	Robert Hall
William Stephenson	George Mather
Robert Thornborrow	H. R. Reed
James Scott	M. S. Dodds
Samuel Kent	John Phillips
James Smith	William Wilson
Thomas Wilson	Joseph Clephan
John W. Pattison	C. D. Garbutt
William Perkins	James Powell
James Turner	Robert Armstrong
Thomas Reay	Joseph Gledstone
George Keeler	Thomas Welford
Edward Lewins	Thomas Young
William Rickaby	John Brown
John Patterson	Thomas Pattison
Ephraim Patterson	John Henderson
John Saul	Thomas Wilkinson
John Hailes	Andrew Selkirk
Thomas Patterson	Joseph Lowden
James W. Robson	Abraham Dawson
James Robson	William Watson
John Scott	John Bullerwell
Joseph Dobinson	Thomas Carr
Cuthbert Carr	John Bruce
Anthony Nixon	Joseph Simpson
Jonathan Strong	John Douglass
James Stephenson	Joseph Snaith
Thomas Proudlock	William Mumby
Robert Hetherington	John Clark
Thomas Gardner	Daniel Robson, jun.
George Davidson	Benjamin Barkus
Thomas Mills	John Fawcett
Daniel Robson	T. S. Robson
A. Elliott	John Firbank
Thomas Sowerby	J. A. Whitworth
John Kimpster	Henry Dawson
William Atkinson	Robert Hunter
John Pallister	Peter Pallister
Robert Angus	John Hildreth
John Usher	Michael Dann
Collingwood Hunter	Samuel Maddison
William Hunter	William Dobinson
Thomas Peacock	Joseph Jefferson
William Potts	William Nixon
John Dobson	Wm. Pickering
Robert Whinham	James Whitworth
Forster Walker	Thomas Pringle
Joseph Proud	Thomas Wilkin
Matthew Kendal	John Sowerby
William Atkinson	Charles Dunn
Robert Elliott	Robert Osborne
W. H. Shield	John Usher, jun.

Gateshead, October 25, 1854.

TO THE
MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE SOUTH WARD
OF THE
BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—I have just received the above Requisition, and am bound to state, that whatever reasons induced me at one time to decline soliciting your Suffrages as your Representative in

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the Town Council, I must and do at once waive them, and say, that, in compliance with your request, I offer myself for reëlection on Wednesday next.

I acknowledge with pleasure your approval of my past conduct; and, if you should do me the honour of electing me, I pledge myself, by strict attention to my duties, and with a due regard to proper economy to promote, to the best of my ability, the general welfare and prosperity of the Borough.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,
R. W. HODGSON.

North Dene, October 26, 1854.

TO THE
MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE SOUTH WARD
OF THE
BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg respectfully to solicit at your hands the honour of re-election as Councillor for your Ward.

If re-elected, I will exert myself to promote the interests of the Borough, and to prove myself worthy of your confidence.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,
EDMOND CRAWSHAY.

London, October 23, 1854.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SOUTH WARD
OF THE BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—I feel obliged by the promises of Support from many of the Electors of your Ward, but beg to state that I am not a Candidate for the office of Town Councillor.

I remain, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,
GEORGE MILLER.

Hat Manufactory, Bridge-street, Gateshead,
October 26th, 1854.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE EAST WARD
OF THE
BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—As the Period for which you elected me a Member of the Town Council will expire on the 1st of November, I beg respectfully to intimate that it is not my intention to solicit a renewal of your suffrages at the ensuing Election. Thanking you for the honour you have twice conferred upon me,

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,
JOHN VICKERS.

West-street, October 20, 1854.

TO THE
MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE EAST WARD
OF THE
BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—Having been earnestly solicited to tender my services as Councillor for your Ward, I am a Candidate for your suffrages; and should I be returned, I will do my duty.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,
WM. ASPDIN.

Cement Works, Gateshead, Oct. 25, 1854.

TO THE
MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE EAST WARD
OF THE BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—I respectfully acknowledge the receipt of your Requisition, signed by 121 Electors, and at once offer myself as a Candidate for your Suffrages on the First of November next.

In thus tendering my services, I am desirous to state, should I be returned as your Representative, I will endeavour to aid and promote every Sanitary Measure calculated to benefit the community. I will also support every Scheme which has for its object the moral and intellectual elevation of the people.

Being economical in the management of my own affairs, you may be assured I will exercise a similar feeling in the administration of yours; and in no instance shall I silently permit the needless expenditure of your money.

I will also turn my attention to the North-Western part of the Ward, with a view of converting the late Calamity into a Public Good, by making Improvements for the Physical and Commercial Wants of our Borough; but in doing so I think it will be necessary to consult the Ratepayers' opinion before any additional Taxes are imposed upon them.

I shall have much pleasure in affording any additional explanation on my Canvass of the Ward.

With feelings of gratitude for the honour you have already conferred upon me,

I am, Gentlemen, your very obedient Servant,
WILLIAM DINGWALL.

Bottle-bank, October 21, 1854.

TO THE
MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE WEST WARD
OF THE
BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—Mr. Garbutt having resigned, I beg respectfully to offer you my services as Councillor for your Ward; and, if honoured by your choice, will endeavour to justify it by discharging my duty.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,
G. CRAWSHAY.

Gateshead Iron Works, Oct. 24, 1854.

TO THE
MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE WEST WARD
OF THE
BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—The term for which you elected me as one of your Representatives in the Town Council, will expire on the first of November.

I therefore respectfully solicit a renewal of your confidence; and be assured, should you again honour me with that important trust, my best exertions shall be used to extend the Manufacturing and Mercantile Interests of the community, and, while happy to assist in carrying out all necessary Social Reforms connected with the Sanitary Arrangements now in course of progress, I shall strenuously enforce rigid economy in the Expenditure of the Rates, so as, if possible, not to increase our Local Taxation.

I have the Honour to remain,
Your most obedient Servant,
BRYAN JOHN PROCKTER.

Gateshead, October 23d, 1854.

C. GARBUTT & SON,
CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS,

RESPECTFULLY intimate to their Friends that their Premises have been partially restored from the Effects of the late Fire, and that they are now in a position to carry on their business in all its branches, as formerly.

21, Bridge-street, Gateshead, October 13, 1854.

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THE GATESHEAD INQUEST.

THE Coroner and jury reassembled on Thursday morning, Nov. 2, with also Capt. Du Cane.

The Coroner called upon Mr. Schorey to report to the jury as to the discovery of further remains in the ruins.

Mr. Schorey stated that, on the lower floor of the dwelling which stood opposite the warehouse, in the recess in Hillgate, ashes had been found of three persons, a man and a woman, and, the medical men were inclined to believe, a second woman. He believed the remains to be those of Mrs. Mary Hart (whose husband, son, and niece perished in the fire), Mrs. Ann Dodds, aged 22, (wife of Titus Dodds,) and Mr. Wiliiam Wigham, of No. 25, Pandon Dene, (brother of Mrs. Dodds). The Hart and Dodds families lived on the upper floor of the house; and Wigham had come over on the morning of the fire, and was assisting his sister to remove. Mrs. Hart was a Roman Catholic, and in connection with the remains supposed to be hers was a medal bearing a figure of the Virgin Mary. Her remains were found on Tuesday—the remains of the other two on Wednesday.

The Coroner read a letter which he had received from Mr. Hawks (elsewhere given); and also answers to two questions which he had put to Professor Taylor since last they met, and a letter received from that gentleman, viz. :—

1. If the chamber was so close as not to allow the escape of gases or the entrance of air, could sulphur and nitrate of soda burn?

Answer.—They would burn readily in the closest chamber without any air, the nitrate of soda furnishing to the sulphur oxygen, which is the element that causes the burning of sulphur in air. In every 86 pounds of nitrate of soda, there are as many cubic feet of oxygen (the element necessary to burning sulphur) as there are in 2,400 cubic feet of the atmosphere.

2. Presuming the fire to have commenced at the top of the warehouse, how could sulphur (and nitrate of soda) in the vault take fire?

Answer.—Sulphur will take fire most readily when it comes in contact with *hot air*, provided the temperature be sufficiently high. The ignition of the *coal tar oil* (*naphtha*), 1½ tons, on the flat above, would fully account for such a degree of heat in the air of the basement of the building, or wherever air had access, as would certainly ignite the sulphur. Neither flame nor ignited substances need come in contact with it, in order to produce combustion. Hot air is sufficient. I have found it to ignite at a lower temperature than gunpowder—*i.e.*, between 347 deg. and 400. Gunpowder does not ignite, according to my repeated experiments, at a lower temperature than about 525 deg. Any temperature that would fire gunpowder in this vault would certainly suffice to ignite sulphur.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to inform you that since the inquest held at Gateshead on Thursday last, I have made a chemical examination of some brownish-black-looking substance given to me by Mr. Stoker. It was taken from a large stone which had been blown over the river, and not interfered with since the explosion.

It had a smell like burnt gunpowder, owing to the presence of sulphuret of sodium. On an analysis in the presence of Captains Cooke and Du Cane, it was found to consist chiefly of sulphur, sulphuret of sodium, and sulphate of soda. There was no burnt gunpowder, or any trace whatever of burnt gunpowder, in it. There was no potassium or potash salt. It contained more sulphur than unburnt gunpowder, and no trace of charcoal.

Lastly, in chemical composition it resembled the sulphur compound collected from near the water, and some sulphur compound scraped by me from the iron parapet in a stone yard at Gateshead, blown over St. Mary's church.

These facts show that the projectiles came from the same quarter, and from the situation of the focus or centre of explosion. Yours,

October 28, 1854. ALFRED S. TAYLOR, M.D.

Mr. Schorey, the Coroner added, had found the workman who superintended the building of the warehouse in Hillgate, and they would now hear what he had to say.

Adam Jackson, the person alluded to, was called. He spoke to his having superintended the building of the premises in 1839 and 1840; but nothing that he said threw any light on the subject.

P.C. John Ewart, Newcastle, (recalled,) deposed:—Saw the fire in Hillgate before any one told him of it, and gave information to a Gateshead policeman, who went off for Mr. Schorey. No policeman was with him when he knocked at the factory door. A Gateshead policeman arrived just before Mr. Schorey. The door was then broken open. Saw no gas burning in the building. The fire was burning fiercely in the highest flat but one. There was no fire in the two lower flats. Two gentlemen came forward after the young man had got his clothes on, and recommended him to save the books.

The Coroner here observed, that it had been suggested to him to further adjourn the inquiry, inasmuch as, on the removal of the whole of the ruins of the warehouse, additional evidence might turn up. He, however, had no power to order its removal, and knew not when it would be wholly effected. If they adjourned, therefore, it must be *sine die*, and he must summon the jury for a future day. If, in the interval, he or any of the jury should fall ill or should die, then the inquiry must begin *de novo*—the inquest must be held over again. It was for the jury, who had paid exemplary attention to the evidence, to say whether they would defer, or at once conclude, the inquiry. He was himself quite prepared to bring it to a close, but was in the hands of the jury.

The jury consulted, and decided that the investigation should close without further adjournment.

Mr. Christian Borries, of Walker-terrace, whom some of the jury wished to have examined as to the presence of flame at the time of the explosion, stated that he was lying in bed on the morning of the fire, when suddenly there was a bright light. It filled the room as though it were on fire. He had hardly time to jump out of bed before there was a loud explosion. Believed the explosion followed the flame. The explosion was followed by darkness.

Mr. William Hall, town-surveyor, being recalled, deposed: — The bottom of the crater formed by the explosion, as he had now ascertained, was scooped out four feet below the level of the lowest floor of the warehouse. Had caused men to make excavations to ascertain if there was any lower vault. They had got six feet below the bottom of the crater. The earth had been sensibly shaken by the explosion to that depth. Detected no lower vault. Sulphur in a fused state, and stones which seemed to have formed part of the building, were found six feet below the bottom of the crater, and ten feet below the level of the floor. Saw no symptoms of there having been a

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well where the sulphur and stones were found. So far as he could yet judge it was maiden earth.

Mr. George Hawks, Borough Magistrate, who had written a letter to the Coroner, as already stated, now deposed that its contents were correct, and that the evidence of the custom-house officer, so far as he and his partners were concerned, was untrue. We give the letter :—

Gateshead Ironworks, Gateshead-upon-Tyne,
October 30, 1854.

DEAR SIR,—I will feel obliged to you to cause this letter to be read to the jury, and will feel obliged by the newspaper reporters inserting the same.

Referring to the evidence given by James Taylor, custom house officer, he says: —"The last time he saw powder taken out of the bond warehouse—viz., 2 kegs of gunpowder 28lbs. each—was on the Queen's birthday, 1853—I believe by Hawks's workmen, who said it was to fire a salute." He goes on to say: — "The same occurred in 1847, on Ascension Day and Waterloo Day." He also adds that Richardson told him he always fired the salutes at Hawks's, and that "he often told him that they always got the powder at Bertram's warehouse for firing salutes."

Now the plain truth is, that we fired no salute at the works or other place on the Queen's birthday, 1853; nor was any powder supplied to us at that time. Again:—We have never fired salutes either on the Queen's birthdays or Waterloo Days. We have fired salutes on Ascension Days and Trinity Mondays. The necessary powder has always been supplied to us by licensed dealers in powder, Messrs. J. Greene & Sons; and we have not the slightest reason to suppose it came from any place but their own immediate store. Yours respectfully,

J. Milnes Favell, Esq., Coroner. G. HAWKS.

Mr. Benjamin James Thompson deposed that he was an agent with Messrs. Allhusen & Co., Gateshead. First saw the fire between 15 and 20 minutes past 12 from Tyne Bridge. It was on the morning of the 6th of October last. Saw what appeared to be a fire in the window of one of the upper floors of Messrs. Wilson's worsted factory in Hillgate. Called to a policeman whom he had passed on the Sandhill, and told him to go for the fire engines. Ran over to Gateshead. At the foot of Bottle-bank saw two policemen a few paces up. Called to them to go and inform Mr. Schorey. Then ran down to Hillgate to the mill. A person, whom he believed to be Messrs. Davidson's stoker, had just given the alarm. That very moment the door of the mill was opened by a person in his shirt and trousers. Saw no policeman there. (Here a letter from Professor Taylor was placed in the hands of the Coroner, who said he would read it to the jury afterwards.) Mr. Thompson continued :—Passed into the mill, and said the place was on fire. Believed the person he addressed was young Mr. Wilson. Advised him to save his master's books and papers. There was no policeman in the place. About three minutes after witness entered the mill, saw a tall policeman in the place. Saw him on coming down from the upper part of the mill. On first going up, passed through a room containing machinery. It was perfectly lighted up — with gas. Should call it the lower room but one of the mill. Went up to the room above. There were several spindles there in flames, but saw no portion of the room on fire. Called down stairs for assistance; for it struck him that, with sufficient force, they might lift the burning spindles from the frames, and throw them from the window. No assistance came. A person who had accompanied him —(Mr. Andrew Stuart, cashier at Messrs. Allhusen's)—called upon him vociferously to come down, thinking there was danger. The fire burnt very rapidly amongst the spindles. Could not say if there was gas lighted in the room that was on fire. Thought there was; because, in going over the bridge, he had seen a red glow, such as worsted made when burning, in one single window only; and thought this would have visibly reflected through the other windows, unless the gas had been lighted. Saw nothing in the room that was likely to have produced the fire. Had the gas been out, he could not conceive how the fire had originated. If the gas had not been put out, a loose end of worsted might have caught fire; or some flocculent matter from the ceiling might have fallen down on the flame. Ran down stairs, and found several people in the lower room, including a policeman. The gas was still burning—more lights than one. It was a bright moonlight night, or he might have seen from the bridge if the mill was lighted by gas. Saw no waste lying about the mill. There was nothing burning on the floor—nothing burning but the worsted on the spindles. There was no gas burning on the ground-floor.

The Coroner now read the following letter, addressed to the Superintendent of the River Police :—

Chemical Laboratory, Guy's Hospital,
October 31, 1854.

SIR,—I write to inform you that I brought with me to London the lump of black slag which Mr. Wesley said he picked up near the crater of the explosion. He delivered it to me on Sunday evening, and I have this day made an analysis of it. The result is, that it certainly has not been derived from the combustion of gunpowder. It consists certainly of a chemical compound called sulphuret of iron united to sulphate of sodium. There is no potash salt in it, and it is quite certain that it has never been derived from burning gunpowder; nor is there the slightest indication that gunpowder, burnt or unburnt, has ever been in contact with it. It being *black* in appearance might naturally create suspicion; but there is no charcoal in it. Its blackness is owing to the presence of iron.

I think you should give this information to Mr. Favell and Mr. Stoker, the coroners, as it might be of importance to them to know the result of this further analysis for their inquests on Wednesday and Thursday.

It has been derived from the copperas placed above the vault melting and burning with the sulphur and nitrate of soda. Yours faithfully,

Mr. Stephens. ALFRED S. TAYLOR.

Mr. John Bewick, recalled, deposed that there was no old well, so far as he knew, under the warehouse.

Mr. John Wilson (recalled) deposed that he could not say who called him upon the morning of the fire. When he opened the door there was a policeman there, and also, he believed, one or two persons more. They had rapped at the door. Was in his shirt — no trousers. Went to bed at half-past 10 or nearer 11. In the room where the fire broke out there was a gas-burner hanging between the frames all along. The gas-lights could be moved about by a joint. The gas was not lighted after the fire. Could not say how the gas got lighted when he turned it off at the meter. On the night before the fire the men would all be away about 8 o'clock. There were two men in the lower room but one at 8. Could not say that he put the gas out in that room himself; but was in that room at half-past 10, and there was no gas lighted then. Was not in the room in which the fire broke out, but saw into it at half-past. Saw no gas lighted in any room before the fire, or after it commenced. Was out of the mill from 8 till after 10. Everybody had left the mill before he went out at 8. No housekeeper lived on the premises. There was a fire in witness's room, which was both bedroom and sitting-room, and supposed he

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lighted his candle there. None of the gas lights in the room where the fire broke out could have come in contact with the spindles. The gas meter was in the floor below. Could form no idea how the gas could get lighted. Flocculent matter accumulated on the joisted floor in one part of the room which took fire, but not over a gas light. There was no man working in the room in which the fire took place, but one in room above, on the night before the fire, up to 8 o'clock.

Some remarks were made on the conflict between Mr. Wilson's former and present evidence, and a desire was expressed to have the stoker called. He was therefore sent for; and, while waiting for him, the Coroner read a paper by Professor Taylor, forming in substance part of the document printed elsewhere.

During the day, allusion was made to a letter from Faraday; but the Coroner could not receive it, the Doctor not being (like Professor Taylor) a sworn witness.

James Morrison, the stoker, now came, and gave evidence as to the discovery of the fire, and to his raising an alarm. He spoke of the door of the factory having been "smashed in," but said he did not see this done—he only supposed the fact. There were several persons about, including three or four Gateshead policemen, and they all rushed in. The fire was burning right through the mill, up above. Saw no gas burning, and thought, if there had been any, he must have observed it at the windows. The light of the fire was shining down through the trap-holes of the floor to the lower part of the mill. When he first saw Mr. Wilson's son he was in his shirt.

The Coroner proceeded to sum up the evidence, which he did with much care and fidelity. He referred to the great length of the inquiry, and to the attention which had been given to it by the jury. Much of the evidence which they had heard was valid—much was worthless—and not a little of it was conflicting and perplexing. The calamity which had called for the inquiry was one of the most awful that had ever occurred in this or perhaps any other locality. He was not aware that in the Norfolk catastrophe the destruction of life and property was so extensive. The jury had been assisted in the inquiry by the evidence of men of great professional science. Failing proof of gunpowder as the cause of the explosion, Mr. Pattinson and Professor Taylor had deposed to other theories; and he must say that the Corporation of Gateshead had done everything in their power to further the inquiry. They had spared neither labour nor expense, but taken a course which was highly creditable to them as a public body; and most ably and zealously had Mr. Hall carried out his duties as their officer. Mr. Schorey, too, deserved the highest praise. Nobody, not fully acquainted with the circumstances, could properly appreciate the conduct of that officer throughout the inquiry. He had acted with great sagacity and untiring vigilance; and he only regretted that his services must be so inadequately rewarded. Now, as to the cause of the explosion. The agent which first and most naturally suggested itself was gunpowder. If that were set aside, then the thories of Mr. Pattinson and Dr. Taylor came in. These differed from each other; and the jury were not bound to adopt either the one or the other of them. They could do so or not as they chose. He was quite sure, from what he had witnessed of their intelligence and acuteness—(for they had examined the witnesses as though they had been a jury of lawyers)—they would come to a conclusion consistent with judgment and discretion. If it should be proved that gunpowder existed on the premises in illegal quantity—(200lbs, being the maximum weight that could be kept on the premises of a licensed dealer, and 50lbs. on the premises of any other person) — then the offence committed amounted to felony, and he would be obliged to commit the offender to gaol. But if gunpowder were not the cause of the explosion—if it had its origin in the sulphur and nitrate of soda—then no offence had been committed, for there was at present no law which regulated the warehousing of these substances, and no suspicion was entertained of danger from their presence on the premises. The Coroner now went into the evidence, analyzing it with great patience, and giving a clear recapitulation of all the main circumstances of the fire and explosion. He pointed out the discrepancies and contradictions in the depositions, and showed how worthless and unreliable was the testimony as to gunpowder; while, on the contrary, there had been a considerable amount of positive evidence to prove that there was no gunpowder whatever on the premises. They had then the valuable assistance of Professor Taylor, sent down in accordance with Lord Palmerston's prompt acquiescence in the wish of the jury; and a more eminent or competent man they could not have had. Professor Taylor had confirmed the positive proof as to the absence of gunpowder, by scientifically demonstrating the same fact. He had clearly proved that there could not possibly have been gunpowder present at the explosion, there not being the slightest trace of it in the crater or the ruins. The gunpowder being disposed of, then arose the question what else was the cause of the explosion; and here there was a difference of opinion between Mr. Pattinson and Professor Taylor; and neither of their theories was free from difficulty. The Coroner stated the difficulties which beset the two solutions, and suggested to the jury the propriety of refraining from a decision between them, and leaving this office to scientific men, who would no doubt everywhere investigate the subject. If the jury were satisfied that the sulphur and nitrate of soda were concerned in the explosion, it was quite enough that they should say so, without deciding how. Their verdict to that effect would be followed, without doubt, by some legislative regulation as to the storing of these substances. The Coroner, in dismissing the jury to the consideration of their verdict, submitted to them the questions which he thought they ought to settle, and said, he was quite sure they would not begrudge the time which they had given to this inquiry; for although they could not recal the dead to life nor restore the property which had been destroyed, their patient labours might prevent the recurrence of so sad a calamity, and the loss of life and property by the same destructive means.

The jury were absent two hours and a half; and, on their return, the Foreman delivered their verdict; which (after a verbal alteration or two suggested by the Coroner) stood thus:—

"We are of opinion that the death of Thomas Scott and others was occasioned by the accidental explosion of a quantity of nitrate of soda and sulphur contained in a warehouse in Hillgate, commonly known as

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Bertram's warehouse. The immediate cause of the explosion was a fire (the origin of which, owing to conflicting evidence, we have not been able to discover, although there would appear to have been a want of caution displayed,) which broke out in the adjacent worsted mill belonging to Messrs. Wilson, and communicated to the warehouse alluded to; but in what way the two substances, nitrate of soda and sulphur, which in our opinion caused the explosion, acted or reacted, chemically or mechanically, we are unable to decide. At the same time, we think it our duty earnestly to recommend the proper authorities to prevent, by every means in their power, such substances as sulphur and any nitrates, which, under certain conditions, we consider to be of the most dangerous and destructive character, from being stored or deposited near to each other. We are fully satisfied that there is a complete want of evidence of the presence of gunpowder in the warehouse which exploded. "JOHN SOWERBY, Foreman."

The Coroner said, the inquiry was now closed, and he wished to make one remark before they separated. In his charge to the jury, he had made no mention of one gentleman to whom they must all feel indebted for his services, and he had done so purposely. He alluded to Capt. Du Cane, who, at the request of the Corporation, had been deputed to watch the proceedings on the part of Her Majesty's Government. Now that the court was closed, he felt himself at liberty to say, that instead of regarding the presence of Capt. Du Cane as an intrusion, he felt glad to see him there; and he was sure the jury must have participated in that sentiment, and would concur with him in saying how much his assistance had been appreciated.

The Foreman expressed his cordial concurrence in this expression of gratitude to Capt. Du Cane.

Capt. Du Cane returned thanks to the Coroner and jury, and congratulated them on the successful issue to which they had brought the investigation.

At the Newcastle Inquest, which was held on Wednesday, Nov. 1, and where the evidence was necessarily very similar to that adduced in Gateshead, the Coroner read two reports which he had received from Professor Taylor, as follows:—

No. I.

Report of Analysis of a Powder received from Mr. Stoker, October 27, 1854.

The chemical analysis of this powder was performed in the presence of Capt. Du Cane and Capt. Cooke.

It was of a snuff-brown colour, and when pressed a n handled it had the smell of recently burnt gunpowder:—*i.e.*, there was a slightly offensive smell of sulphuretted hydrogen gas. It weighed 35 grains.

It was partially dissolved by water, and the solution had an alkaline reaction. There was a strong smell of sulphuretted hydrogen; and by applying the usual test (a salt of lead) it was found to contain a soluble alkaline sulphuret. Hydrochloric acid dissolved the greater part of the powder, and gave a yellowish white precipitate of sulphur. The acid solution, when tested, gave traces of the oxide of iron.

Ten grains of the powder were submitted to a red heat in platina. There was a strong smell of *sulphur* evolved, and a portion of the sulphur burnt with a bluish flame, giving off the usual odour of burning sulphur. The residuary powder was blackened, probably owing to the formation of some sulphuret of iron. The quantity lost by heat as volatile matter, chiefly sulphur, amounted to about ten per cent. by weight.

The black residue was boiled in water, filtered, and evaporated to dryness. It crystallized in long prisms, which, when submitted to heat, readily melted in their water of crystallization. These facts rendered it probable that the salt thus obtained was *sulphate of soda*.

The tests for soda and sulphuric acid were now applied, and there were found to be the constituents of this alkaline salt.

The saline liquid was carefully tested for *potash* by the most delicate tests, but there was not a trace of any salt of potash present. During the process of boiling and evaporation, the smell of sulphuretted hydrogen was given off, the sulphuret entirely disappeared, and the salt was converted to a pure sulphate.

On applying the lead test there was no action on the lead, showing that the conversion from sulphuret to sulphate had been complete.

A portion was separately crystallized on a glass plate, and examined by a lens. No other crystals could be perceived than the fine prismatic crystals of *sulphate of soda*.

From the result of one quantitative experiment, the sulphate of soda was found to weigh six grains as extracted from ten grains of the powder.

CONCLUSION.

The results of the analysis of this powder show that it consists of sulphur, sulphuret of sodium, sulphate of soda, and some oxide of iron—an undissolved impurity.

Is it the residue of the combustion of gunpowder?

Assuredly not. The residue of the combustion of gunpowder is sulphuret of potassium and charcoal — the sulphuret of potassium possessing the same odour as sulphuret of sodium, and being, like it, convertible to sulphate by boiling.

This was proved by a parallel analysis of the residue of burnt gunpowder, in the presence of Capt. Du Cane and Capt. Cooke.

The suspected powder contained no potash salt and no charcoal (*always found* in the residue of gunpowder), and it contained a large quantity of free sulphur, which is *never found* in the residue of burnt gunpowder.

ALFRED S. TAYLOR, M.D., F.R.S.

Newcastle, October 27, 1854.

No. II.

Report on the Cause of the Explosion.

FOR GUNPOWDER.

The effects produced—suddenness, violence, and extent of the explosion—apparently no other cause in the first instance to account for it.

AGAINST GUNPOWDER.

1. No direct evidence of its presence in the warehouse.

2. No *body of flame* seen at the *instant* of *explosion*:—only before and afterwards.

All was instantaneous darkness at the moment of explosion. (Evidence of Schorey—statements of Sergeant Sloan, Corporal Lawson, 26th Regiment, and others.)

With gunpowder (say *seven* or *eight* tons) there would have been a vast volume of flame *simultaneously with the explosion*, appearing to those who (like Schorey) were in the immediate reach of it.

3. No traces of *burning by gunpowder* on the bodies or dresses of the dead.

The burning on the dress of Scott was in patches, and certainly owing to drops of burning sulphur. There was *no burning or scorching by gunpowder* of the dress.

The special marks of *blackening of the face by gunpowder* were entirely wanting. Faces were blackened (Schorey), but evidently by soot or the charcoal of ammoniacal manure, of which there were some tons on the premises.

When the blackening of the face is well marked (as in Schorey's case), and it has really been caused by *gunpowder*, then *grains of powder*, or of unburnt charcoal, would be driven *into and imbedded in the skin of the faces of all who were within reach.*

Some of the bodies were undoubtedly burnt, but not by gunpowder, as far as the evidence appears. Burning sulphur and ordinary flame, or the scorching effect of a large fire from combustibles, will burn the bodies of those who are exposed to them.

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4. There were *no traces of gunpowder*, consumed or unconsumed, in any part of the premises, in so far as they have been yet examined.

There was neither *nitrate* nor *sulphate* of potash in store in any part of the premises at the time of the conflagration.

Nitrate of potash represents *unburnt powder*. *Sulphate of potash* and *sulphuret of potassium* represent the constituents of exploded gunpowder:—always, however, in both cases, mixed with *charcoal*.

Many substances have been analyzed, but no traces of any of the *salts of potash* found in any part.

The water in the crater contained none. Assuming that eight tons of gunpowder caused this immense destruction, then this would have been equal to six tons of nitrate of potash, representing by combustion more than three tons of sulphuret of potassium, or four tons of *sulphate of potash*. A great part of the former produces a white smoke during explosion, and much of this is deposited as a greyish white or blackish efflorescence on all solids within reach of the explosion. The bricks (probably many thousands) have been well washed by rain and the water of fire-engines. These washings have drained into the lowest part of the crater. Yet, of the *four tons* of this substance derived from the combustion of eight tons of powder, not a particle could be found on analysis in this water. There was an abundance of *soda*, but *no potash*.

To put this matter still stronger:—On the assumption that eight tons of gunpowder were there to cause the explosion, there would have been formed nearly 9,000 lbs. of a salt of which none is found in the washings of the premises — not even the tenth part of a grain in eight ounces of the water.

Schorey can state how, when, and under what circumstances he collected this water.

5. The explosion, from whatever cause, must have taken place in the *vault*—this being the crater, focus, or centre of explosion.

Of this there can be no doubt whatever. The arrangement of the ruins proves it beyond question.

The water of the crater (the vault) has been analyzed, and contains no potash of salts, (the indication of burnt gunpowder). It is surrounded by large blocks of sulphur, some of which has undergone fusion. This sulphur in the vault must have been in a melted state before the gunpowder was fired, because sulphur melts easily at 230 deg. Fahrenheit, and I have determined by experiment that gunpowder is not exploded under a temperature of 525 deg. Fahrenheit. (The melting point of sulphur, as above stated, I have also had occasion to determine by actual experiment.)

The facts being so, the eight tons of gunpowder, or whatever the quantity, must have been discharged in the midst of the melted sulphur, so that the cloud of *charcoal* and *sulphuret of potassium* would have to traverse the melted sulphur, and some of it could not fail to be locked up in or combined with it, owing to the highly viscid nature of melted sulphur.

An analysis shows that there is not an atom of charcoal in the fused sulphur of the crater, nor any sulphuret of potassium or sulphate of potash. Eight tons of gunpowder would contain one ton of charcoal or 2,240 lbs. If the eight tons exploded in this vault near the melted sulphur, is it to be supposed that no traces of this vast quantity of charcoal would be apparent in the sulphur? The sulphur would not destroy or alter the chemical nature of charcoal.

Every atom of the 2,240 lbs. of charcoal, as well as of the 9,000 lbs. of sulphate of potash, has been proved to be absent from about the centre or focus of explosion. There is not a trace of either as a residue of gunpowder.

The mass of *fused sulphur* from the crater was taken in my presence by Percival Smith, and it was analyzed by me in the presence of Captains Du Cane and Cooke. It contained salts of *soda*, but none of potash — no charcoal nor anything to indicate that the discharge of a large quantity of gunpowder had ever been in contact with or near to it.

Its chemical composition bears out exactly the statement of the witnesses that there was nothing in the vault but *sulphur* and *nitrate of soda*

Within six yards of the crater, in the precise direction which the explosion took across the Tyne—*i.e.*, north—were lying a number of bags of nitrate of soda, which had evidently been blown over by the explosion. (These were probably part of the nitrate in the room between the vault and the quay.)

Although from their position they must have been in the very course of the explosion, it was quite clear from their position, that the blast of eight tons of gunpowder could never have passed over them without scorching, singeing, and blackening by charcoal the hempen fibre The bags that I saw, though on the surface most exposed, presented none of the traces of the action of powder. Beams of burnt wood had fallen over them. I examined the nitrate of soda. There was no charcoal in it, nor any appearance to show that it had been within a few yards of the discharge of many tons of powder. I do not think it probable that these bags with their contents would have been found thus uninjured and unstained, and yet obviously thrown out of place by the explosion, had this been due to gunpowder.

6. The sulphuret of potassium produced in the discharge of gunpowder has a tendency to discolour or turn brown white lead paint — *i.e.*, if within reach of the cloud of sulphuret formed from the discharge of powder. A marine store shop in Hillgate has had its front blown in, but there is no general tarnish or discoloration of the painted joists such as I should expect to find if gunpowder had been exploded in the quantity to produce the effects of this explosion. Eight tons of gunpowder set free upwards of three tons of sulphuret of potassium; and a building so near could, it appears to me, hardly escape giving some indication of the action of the sulphuret or of sulphuretted hydrogen (also given out in the discharge of gunpowder) on the lead paint.

For these reasons I do not see that the theory that this explosion took place as the result of gunpowder, has any scientific support whatever. The scientific facts, as at present revealed by the examination of the ruins, are quite inconsistent with it. It becomes merely a random speculation, because the minds of many people are unable to associate such an amount of destruction with any other agent than gunpowder.

If matters of this momentous kind are to be settled by a mere *guess* or conjecture—and the non-discovery of any traces of burnt gunpowder, when such a vast quantity must have been used as in this instance, is to be treated as an unimportant element in the consideration of a cause—then it is quite useless to enter into any discussion of the subject. Any explosion may then be assigned to gun cotton, gunpowder, steam, or gas. The effect of this mode of dealing with scientific facts, will be to render property and life more insecure in large commercial towns than ever. How can the Government be reasonably advised to prohibit the storage of such materials as nitre and sulphur in close contact and under strong walls — (in fact, in mines) — if the public voice should pronounce arbitrarily, as in this instance, that the cause of the ruin which has been occasioned was not what was found (a mixture of sulphur and nitrate of soda), but a substance which was not found on the premises? If such a view be adopted, there must be a greater loss of life and a greater destruction of property before this error can be made apparent.

FOR AQUEOUS VAPOUR OR HIGH PRESSURE STEAM.

In favour of this view we may notice the terrific effects—the rending and destruction of all surrounding buildings and objects.

AGAINST IT.

1. A large quantity of water, say one or two tons, must have been suddenly converted to steam in order to produce the effects observed.

2. How could this have entered the vault in such a volume at once? How could it have accumulated to explode all at once in a quantity sufficient to account for the tremendous explosion? There was no boiler or vessel in the vault to hold these tons of water until it had reached that amount of pressure which would suffice to rend the walls asunder.

3. At the moment of explosion, clouds of steam would have been visible, and some of the bodies at least, near the seat of explosion, would have presented marks of scalding.

The facts above mentioned show that steam was not the agent in this case. Although water thrown on red hot or white hot bodies will cause explosion, yet this is only on a

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small scale. The great fires in London, in warehouses and large buildings, show that a large accumulation of water, to be suddenly converted to high pressure steam, is not a common occurrence. This theory would lead to the entire abolition of the use of fire engines in those cases in which they are most particularly required—namely, in extensive conflagrations of bonded warehouses in commercial towns. It does not explain the facts of the case, and there is no reason for adopting it.

FOR GASEOUS EXPLOSION.

1. The adequate production of a large quantity of gas (nitrogen and sulphurous acid) in a strong and comparatively closed vault, by the combustion of the materials contained in this vault—namely, nitrate of soda and sulphur.

2. The known law in physics, that when any gases, inflammable or uninflammable, are produced by chemical decomposition in large quantity, in a comparatively confined space, and under a high temperature, the vessel or space must sooner or later burst or be rent asunder, simply by the mechanical power of the gas.

3. The open doorway forms a small area compared with the large area of the vault, and the top of the doorway was five feet from the roof, forming an enclosed space above. The open area of the muzzle of a gun or of a mortar is far greater than this in proportion to the area of the interior.

4. The sulphur will burn at the expense of the oxygen of the nitre; and in proportion to the amount of oxygen or nitre commanded by the sulphur, so will be the intensity of the heat. 86 pounds of nitrate of soda would be equivalent to 2,400 cubic feet of air in burning with sulphur. Hence air would not be necessary to this mode of combustion.

5. Assuming that about two tons of this material are in a state of active combustion, so much of the two gases might be suddenly extricated that the chamber and all above and around it would be blown to pieces before the gases could find a sufficient escape by the doors. If by any accident during the conflagration the space of the doorway became obstructed, partially or wholly, this would at once convert the chamber into a vast shell, which would burst and carry all before it at its weakest point—namely, on the side towards the river. The melted sulphur and nitre would be projected with it, and adhere to the bodies forced away by the explosion.

6. Confirmatory of this view I found that the *powder* scraped from a large mass of stone which had been blown across the Tyne (the powder having been given to me for this purpose by Mr. Stoker) consisted of sulphur, sulphuret of sodium, and sulphate of soda—the materials derived from the combustion of nitrate of soda and sulphur in the vault.

An iron kerb post, weighing three cwt. or more, blown into a stone-mason's yard at Gateshead (shown to me by Mr. Schorey), had on it a powder which I examined, and found to consist of similar constituents—sulphur and sulphate of soda.

On the gunpowder theory, this appears inexplicable, unless we suppose that all traces of the burnt powder had been carefully washed off. On the theory above given, these deposits on the stone and iron are accounted for, and, by undisputed circumstantial evidence, they show that at any rate the burning and fused materials of the vault or chamber had been forced against these masses, flying 400 or 500 yards in precisely opposite directions. How did it happen, if gunpowder were really the force which projected them, that some traces of charcoal, or sulphuret of potassium, or sulphate of potash, were not found in the sulphur material on the stone or the iron kerb post?

7. This kind of explosion is unattended with flame or steam. The gases do not burn (nitrogen and sulphurous acid). They are not at all combustible. They would not (like exploded gunpowder) blacken, scorch, or singe bags of nitrate of soda over which they passed. They and the clothes of persons would only be burnt by masses of ignited sulphur, thrown out by the gases, falling upon them.

There would be no such volume of flame in the explosion of these gases as in the burning of gunpowder. All would be at the instant darkness; and there would be the choking, stifling sensation of sulphurous acid. (According to the statement of Schorey and others, such was the fact.)

8. How did the sulphur become ignited? It should be known most distinctly and clearly that sulphur will melt and take fire without the immediate contact of flame, or of any incandescent or ignited body. Hot air alone will cause it to melt in flame and burn. It melts at 230 deg.—*i.e.*, only 18 deg. of Fahrenheit above the boiling point of water; and I have found it to ignite between 347 deg. and 400 deg.—certainly under 450 deg. It will ignite at a temperature at which gunpowder *will not* explode. This I have found to be by direct experiment 525 deg., and rather above than below that point; so that those who imagine that gunpowder was stored in this vault have a greater heat to convey to the vault than is necessary for the ignition of sulphur.

My belief is, that a temperature of 600 deg. soon spread over the whole of the building, including the basement chambers. The diffusion of heat by gases is enormously rapid. There was a ton and a half of coal oil or naphtha in the flat above the vault, which, by burning, must have diffused a large amount of heat through the whole building, quite enough to ignite sulphur. From the worsted factory wall, if the bricks became heated, the heat would be conveyed to the air in a narrow passage described to run out and open by a free space near the mouth of the vault. This air might soon become hot enough to ignite sulphur without the necessity of any burning ember or flame reaching it, or without the wooden roof of the vault being burnt through.

9. Many of the articles in the basement escaped burning, and much of the lead escaped melting. The burning of bodies depends on the presence of oxygen in the air. Sulphur, when once ignited, soon removes the whole of this oxygen, so that no combustion can go on; and it would itself soon cease to burn, unless it were in contact with a substance like nitrate of soda, which can supply to it an abundance of oxygen and thus feed its combustion.

I have found that sulphurous acid, even when it forms only 33 per cent. of air, extinguishes a lighted candle, a lighted stick, and all bodies that are kindled or in the act of burning. In the concentrated state, nothing can keep ignited or lighted within this vapour for one single instant. Thus the thick wooden roof of the vault might ignite from above, but it could not be ignited from below, because the upper part of the vault would be quite filled with the vapour of sulphurous acid, and there would be no *air* in the chamber to sustain the combustion of a single spark in the timber. This would explain the non-ignition and absence of burning in the bags of nitrate of soda outside the chamber, which did not happen to be in contact with ignited sulphur.

It is my belief, judging from all the facts as they at present appear in this remarkable case, that the burning of the sulphur and nitre in the chamber might attain the vigour necessary to lead to explosion before all the sulphur outside the chamber was melted — before all the bags outside the chamber were burnt, or the nitrate of soda within them melted — or before all the pigs of lead were melted, and before the roof of the chamber was burnt or had given way. If the flat above fell upon the roof of the vault immediately before the explosion, this would add to the superincumbent weight, increase the explosive force of the gas within, and lead to a greater amount of destruction than would otherwise have occurred.

This is the only theory upon which, as facts at present stand, I can account for this explosion. Gunpowder does not account for it, unless we throw aside all experience concerning the chemical action of this body. Steam cannot account for it. Lastly, upon the only theory reconcileable with the evidence of what is proved to have been in the vault, and to have been carried by projectiles across the Tyne, and to a great distance in Gateshead, had there been substances in this vault not ignitable, or which could not form gases, there would have been reason for looking to some other force, such as gunpowder, steam, or volcanic agency for a cause. ALFRED S. TAYLOR, M.D, F.R.S.

Newcastle, October 30, 1854.

The Newcastle inquest was adjourned to Monday, the 13th November.

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THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.

THE elections of 1854 have not passed over without a little wholesome excitement. In many of the wards the burgesses have been provoked by competing candidates to the exercise of their suffrages, and reminded of the duties and responsibilities of local self-government.

Newcastle, with its eight wards, had no more contests than Gateshead with three. Messrs. John Rayne and Joseph Laycock were reëlected without a contest in the Ward of St. Nicholas; Messrs. John Carr and Henry Angus in St. John's; Messrs. John Ormston and Anthony Parker in West All Saints'; Messrs. Edward Hall and John Gibson in North St. Andrew's; Mr. George Forster in Westage; and Mr. Thomas Ridley in Jesmond. In South St. Andrew's, Mr. A. G. Gray resigning, Dr. Robinson and Mr. John Spoor came forward for the vacancy—Mr. R. S. Stanley standing for reëlection. The numbers were :—

Dr. Robinson	358
Mr. Spoor	282
Mr. R. S. Stanley	222

East All Saints' also had a contest. Mr. William Newton, one of the retiring Councillors, stood again; and Mr. George Bradley and Mr. Charles Smith, jun., offered themselves for the seat of Mr. Robert Liddell, who did not wish to be reëlected. At the close of the poll, the result was as follows :—

Mr. William Newton	732
Mr. Charles Smith	533
Mr. George Bradley	298

There was warm work in the Newcastle contests, more particularly in the ward of East All Saints'; and, "to make the gruel thick and slab," some newspaper quarrels, unpleasant enough in print, were imported into the battle of the burgesses, and acted anything but as oil to the troubled waters.

In *Gateshead*, the West ward reëlected Mr. Bryan John Prockter, and returned Mr. George Crawshay in the place of Mr. Cornelius Garbutt. There was a contest in the South ward. The retiring candidates were Messrs. R. W. Hodgson and Edmond Crawshay. Mr. Hodgson having announced his intention not to stand again, Mr. Thomas Welford offered himself for the vacancy. Subsequently, however, Mr. Hodgson was induced, by an irresistible requisition, to accept of reëlection; and a fourth candidate came into the field in the person of Mr. George Miller, of Hills-street, who stood in the same interest as Mr. Dingwall in the East ward. The result was as under :—

Mr. R. W. Hodgson	229
Mr. Thomas Welford	195
Mr. Edmond Crawshay	91
Mr. George Miller	32

There was a contest in the East ward, where Mr. James Hewitt was a candidate for a renewal of his trust, and Mr. Dingwall and Mr. Aspdin were candidates for the seat of Mr. John Vickers. The contest was more sectional than political—one of class more than of party. On the morning of the election, simultaneously with the opening of the poll, an address to the burgesses of the East ward suddenly presented itself on the walls, asserting that "Mr. Aspdin having been pronounced ineligible to sit as a Councillor, all votes given to that gent'leman will be thrown away." Who would have thought, from a perusal of this placard, that the authority which had "pronounced Mr. Aspdin ineligible," and invalidated "all votes given to that gentleman," was simply that of Mr. Joseph Reynolds? Mr. Reynolds, before any votes were given, handed in a protest to Mr. Alderman Robson, asserting that Mr. Aspdin had not been rated a sufficient length of time to make him eligible; and then, out came the ready-printed handbill, to turn the tide of votes in Mr. Dingwall's direction! The clever move failed of its object—the poll closing as follows :—

Mr. James Hewitt	272
Mr. William Aspdin	210
Mr. William Dingwall	155

Mr. Reynolds, before the result was declared by Alderman Robson, requested that the protest might be enrolled in the archives of the borough. Mr. Robson said it would be handed over to the Town Clerk with the voting papers.

The numbers having been stated, and Messrs. Hewitt and Aspdin declared duly elected, the worthy Alderman congratulated the electors on the good order and good feeling with which the battle had been fought.

Mr. Hewitt thanked the Alderman and Assessors for the courtesy with which they had discharged their duties, and the electors for the confidence which they had manifested in him, and which had placed him in the proud position which he then occupied. There never was a time in the history of Gateshead when more important duties devolved on her local authorities, and he trusted that he might have the judgment to discern and discriminate the course which it was her interest to pursue, and the courage to follow his honest convictions, wherever they might lead him. Now was the time for Gateshead to enter upon the path which should conduct her to her right position, and the electors might rely upon it that his best efforts should be directed to the advancement of his native borough. (Cheers.)

Mr. Aspdin briefly returned thanks, assuring the burgesses that he would do everything that lay in his power for the benefit of Gateshead.

Mr. Dingwall said, he also must return thanks. The election had been conducted by the municipal officers to his entire satisfaction, and he felt grateful to them for their gentlemanly behaviour. One word as to the franchise. The municipal franchise had been extended; but, from his experience of municipal elections, he would say, that if an extension of the parliamentary franchise were offered him, unaccompanied by the ballot, he would reject it. (Hear, hear.) He had always been an advocate of an extension of the suffrage, but, after what he had seen of the undue influence exercised on working men, he repeated that he would accept no such extension if the ballot were not granted also. He felt that he stood there in as proud a position as any of the candidates who had addressed the electors. From the number of free and independent burgesses who had come forward to record their votes in his favour, he was satisfied that, if no improper influence had been exerted against him, he would have been returned to the Council to represent the working classes of the borough, whose interests had so long been neglected. (Cheers.) Powers had been possessed by the municipal body which had never been carried out. Measures might have been adopted which had never been taken. The people had been left to exist in holes and corners not fit for brutes to inhabit. Why had the salutary powers of the law been allowed to slumber? In his canvasses of the electors he had seen working people herding in dens which he

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would never himself have consented to live in. He would have emigrated—have left his native land for ever — rather than have endured such domestic wretchedness. It was melancholy to witness human beings immured in such darksome, dirty, dungeon-like places, with hardly a glimmer of light, and in the midst of mud and filth. Great need, indeed, there was of improvement in Gateshead; and he had ever been the advocate of improvements, as there were gentlemen present who well knew. He had often directed attention to the necessity of improving Hillgate and Pipewellgate, and other miserable localities, sadly overcrowded, and woefully deficient in light. To let in the light upon such places would be better than the employment of additional policemen, and would tend to cleanliness, order, and morality. He was glad to believe that they were all alike anxious for sanitary improvement; and he hoped that what Mr. Aspdin had witnessed in the course of his canvass would convince him more than ever of the necessity of greater attention to this subject. It was perhaps out of that gentleman's way to go into the more neglected localities of the borough: — he would be glad if what he had now seen had led him to perceive that something must be done to check the excessive disease and mortality which prevailed in Gateshead and elsewhere. Reverting to what he had said at the outset, he would again assert that the hand of power was employed to crush down the working class electors. He had found it to be so, and could prove it. He knew that the screw had been put on to prevent men coming forward to vote. Mr. Crawshay's agents had been employed to corrupt and contaminate and influence the minds of electors. (Cries of "Prove it! prove it!") He could prove it, and would do so at the proper time. He would never go for any extension of the franchise in parliamentary elections, unless the votes were to be taken by ballot. Again he thanked those who heard him for the kindness which he had personally experienced. He could assure them he had been actuated by no presumptuous feelings in coming forward as a candidate. He had offered himself from a conviction that the working classes were not fully represented in the Council. Parliament, in its wisdom, had rendered him eligible to a seat in the Council—had placed it in his power to be a legitimate candidate—and he was not prepared to find any one, either within or without the Council, so narrow-minded as to question the propriety of his offering himself for election. Was wealth to be regarded as the only criterion of fitness in a Councillor? He could consent to no such standard; and he here publicly declared that the barrier between the working classes and the Council should be broken down—that the Council-chamber should be thrown open to them. There was no law to exclude them from a share in municipal government, and their intelligence would give them the enjoyment of the rights and privileges which had been conferred upon them by the legislature. (Applause.) He would trespass no longer on the patience of the burgesses, but thank them for the favourable hearing which they had afforded him. He hoped that Mr. Aspdin, if he were allowed to retain his seat (of which there was some doubt), would pay attention to the interests, not of the commercial classes only, but of the working classes also. (Applause.)

Mr. Thomas Pringle, as one who had been so pointedly alluded to by Mr. Dingwall, wished to say a few words in reply.

Mr. Alderman Robson said, the contest had gone off very quietly; the three candidates had been heard; and he thought he must now close the proceedings, or there was no knowing where they might end.

Mr. Alderman Hawks concurred with Mr. Robson. Mr. Dingwall had made certain assertions, and it remained for that gentleman to substantiate them.

The Alderman and Assessors vacated their seats—three cheers were given for Mr. Dingwall—and the burgesses dispersed. In the evening, there were dinners at the Queen's Head, the Black Bull, &c.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY BUILDING FUND. — This subscription proceeds apace, and gradually rises towards the required height. The following new subscribers have been acquired:—

John Birtley & Son	£1	1	0
J Birtley & Son's Workmen	1	4	6
George Elliott's Workmen	0	10	6
Tyne Main Colllery Workmen	1	15	9
John Edward, Sheriff Hill	1	0	0
T. Patterson	1	1	0
George Patterson	1	1	0
Miss Patterson	0	10	6
George Davidson	0	10	6
A. Lucas	0	10	0
R. Gowland	0	10	0
W. Dunn	0	5	0
W. Hunter	0	5	0
George Barras	0	5	0
J. Pallister	0	5	0
J. N. Pattison	0	2	6
John Thompson	0	2	6
B. Swalwell	0	2	6
James Thompson	0	2	6
N. Smith	0	2	6
T. Gardner	0	2	6
Mrs. Turnbull	0	2	6
A Friend	0	1	0

GATESHEAD POOR LAW UNION. — The fortnightly meeting was held on October 31. Present: — The Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and Messrs. Makepeace, Cook, and William Clark. The Clerk read the minutes, and also made the customary reports. It appeared that the following parishes were behind in their payments to the amounts placed opposite their respective names:—

Gateshead	£450	Whickham	£162
Heworth	75	Winlaton	62½
Stella	30		

Ryton was £10 in advance. No summons (Mr. Swinburne said) had been taken out against Whickham, the arrears due when the order was made having been paid up. As to the parishes now in arrear, the calls were not due until Saturday last, so that no great time had yet elapsed. The cheques to be issued amounted to £352 10s. 10d. The balance in hand was £918 16s. 2d., leaving a surplus with the Treasurer of £566 5s. 4d. The Treasurer had written to the Commissioners reporting that, at the date of his letter, the balance in hand was only £59; but he (Mr. Swinburne) did not think it likely that the amount would ever be so small again. The Treasurer expressed an opinion in his letter that the balance should never be less than £1,000. Mr. Makepeace brought several workhouse matters under consideration, all of which received the attention ot the Board. Twelve notices of marriage were read, one of which conveyed an intimation that a union-officer has fallen

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out of love with single blessedness, and is seeking relief in matrimony. Some other business was transacted, and the Board proceeded to the relief of the poor.

HULL AND GATESHEAD.—The following resolution was unanimously agreed to at the quarterly meeting of the Town Council of Hull, on the 26th Oct. :— "That the thanks of this Corporation are eminently due to Mr. Hutt, Member for Gateshead, for his kind and efficient services to the borough of Kingston-upon-Hull in general, and to this Corporation in particular, during the last session of parliament, in which this borough has been without representation in the Commons' House of Parliament." A similar resolution was unanimously passed by the Board of Health of Hull on the 25th Oct.

THE RELIEF FUND.—The following sums, sent to the Ladies' Committee, were forwarded from London to Mrs. Cox, John's-place, Gateshead : — Miss C. Atkins, Kingston-on-Thames, £2 2s., Miss Rigby, Paddington, £1 7s. 6d., Mrs. Plummer, London, 5s.

THE EXPLOSION.

ON Thursday, the 26th Oct., I visited the scene of the late explosion in Gateshead. My object in so doing was more particularly to obtain samples of the *debris*, in order to subject them to a careful chemical analysis, and to ascertain whether any arsenic could be detected in them. These samples consisted of sulphur, nitrate of soda, carbonaceous matter, with several pieces of wood, which had the appearance of having been parts of barrels. I also procured, at the same time, a large bottleful of water from the crater. It was stated in the evidence at the investigation held in Gateshead touching the explosion, that a considerable quantity of arsenic was stored in the warehouse at the time of the explosion, and that this arsenic was contained in barrels. If arsenic had existed there in the quantity stated (being several tons), there is every reason to conclude that it would certainly have been detected by the process employed in analyzing the *debris* at the College of Practical Science. Such, however, was the result of the analysis of the articles procured at the scene of the explosion, that *no arsenic was procured from them.* X.

College of Practical Science, Ryehill, Newcastle.

BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the persons hereinafter named and described were on the First Day of November, 1854, declared duly ELECTED COUNCILLORS of the several Wards of the said Borough hereinafter inserted.

EAST WARD.

JAMES HEWITT, King James's-street, Cabinet-maker.

WILLIAM ASPDIN, Red Barns Villa, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Cement Manufacturer.

WEST WARD.

GEORGE CRAWSHAY, Tynemouth, Iron Founder.

BRYAN JOHN PROCKTER, Gateshead, Glue Manufacturer.

SOUTH WARD.

RICHARD WELLINGTON HODGSON, North Dene, Merchant.

THOMAS WELFORD, Sisson's Gate, Gentleman,

G. J. KENMIR, Town Clerk.

Townhall, Gateshead, November 1, 1854.

TO THE
MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE SOUTH WARD
OF THE
BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to offer my best thanks for the high position in which you placed me on the Polling List yesterday.

I highly esteem this marked expression of your confidence, and hope to merit it by a strict and zealous discharge of my Duties as your Representative.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
R. W. HODGSON.

North Dene, November 2, 1854.

TO THE
MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE SOUTH WARD
OF THE
BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—The Result of the Poll has confirmed my anticipation that I should this day be elected as one of your Representatives in the Town Council.

Allow me to thank you most sincerely for the distinguished honour you have thus conferred upon me, and to assure you that my time and best energies shall be devoted to a faithful discharge of my public duties.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
THOMAS WELFORD.

Stewart's-place, Gateshead, Nov. 1, 1854.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE EAST WARD
OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—Gratified as I am by the distinguished position in which your confidence has placed me by this day's Poll, I simply thank you for this added mark of your kindness, leaving it to my future conduct as your Representative to show how grateful I am for your esteem and support.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your faithful Servant,
JAMES HEWITT.

King James's-street, Nov. 1, 1854.

TO THE
MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE EAST WARD
OF THE
BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to tender you my unfeigned thanks for the great kindness you manifested to me on Wednesday in electing me one of your Councillors. Such a mark of honour I hardly anticipated, being comparatively a stranger among you. I can assure you that no exertion on my part shall be wanting to fulfil to your satisfaction those important public duties which now devolve upon me as one of your representatives. And I may also observe, that if ever your Borough required good and faithful men, it is at this juncture. My earnest wish is that her Councillors may seize the present opportunity of carrying out those contemplated improvements which I feel persuaded will be a means of elevating your increasing Town in a commercial point of view.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
WILLIAM ASPDIN.

Cement Works, Gateshead, November 2, 1854.

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TO THE
MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE WEST WARD
OF THE BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

GENTLEMEN,—Allow me to assure you that I am deeply sensible of the confidence which you have exhibited towards me by returning me as your Representative to the Town Council of Gateshead. I trust to be faithful and diligent in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,
GEORGE CRAWSHAY.

Gateshead Iron Works, Nov. 2, 1854.

TO THE
MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF THE WEST WARD.

GENTLEMEN, — I sincerely thank you for the honour you have been pleased to confer upon me this day, by returning me again as one of your Representatives in the Town Council.

Be assured that this additional mark of your confidence and approval of my past services shall inspire me with new energy in carrying out such measures as are calculated to promote the health and prosperity of the community; and, by a diligent discharge of the increased duties you have imposed upon me, I trust I shall prove myself not unworthy of your choice.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient Servant,
BRYAN JOHN PROCKTER.

Gateshead Glue Works, November 1, 1854.

THE TOWN-COUNCIL OF GATESHEAD.

†R. W. HODGSON, Mayor.

ALDERMEN.	†Aspdin, William	Hymers, J. A.
†Haggie, David	†Brinton, George	†Ionn, F. P.
†Hawks, George	†Cook, William	†Patterson, G.
†Lister, John	Crawshay, George	†Prockter, B. J.
†Pearson, C. J.	†Gray, Alex. Geo.	†Skelton, John
†Robson, Joseph	†Haggie, Peter	†Welford, T.
†Smith, James	†Hewitt, James	Wilson, James
COUNCILLORS	Hunter, George	†Woolston, John
†Allhusen, Chris.		

☞ Those marked (†) were present.

THE statutory annual meeting was held on Thursday, the 9th Nov., at noon.

The MAYOR (DAVID HAGGIE, Esq.) having taken the chair, handed to the Town Clerk, (after the results of the late ward elections had been declared,) the following letter from Mr. Joseph Reynolds, which was read to the Council:—

To David Haggie, Esq., the Worshipful the Mayor of the Borough of Gateshead.

SIR,—I beg of you to apprise the Town Council that Mr. William Aspdin and Mr. George Crawshay are ineligible to sit as Councillors for the borough of Gateshead, and therefore render themselves liable to a penalty of £50 for each act of theirs in the offices they have illegally assumed.

JOSEPH REYNOLDS.

The TOWN CLERK having read the Bribery Act, as required by law,

Mr. Ald. ROBSON rose to propose a member of the Council to fill the office of Mayor for the ensuing year. The gentleman whom he intended to propose, he was quite sure, would give entire satisfaction to that body and to the whole of the burgesses. He (Mr. Robson) had previously had the honour of nominating gentlemen who were elected to this high office, and who had acquitted themselves well; and he had no doubt that Mr. Hodgson (applause), whom he was now about to propose, would perform his duties equally well, if not better. Every one of them had filled the chair to his own credit and the honour of the borough; he was confident that Mr. Hodgson would form no exception; and he had therefore much pleasure in proposing that he be now elected to the office of Mayor.

Mr. Ald. SMITH seconded the nomination. When, he observed, he first canvassed the South Ward for Mr. Hodgson, everybody said he would make an excellent Councillor, if only his multifarious business engagements would allow him to devote the proper amount of time to the public service. He was elected, and it was now well known how efficient a Councillor he had made. The late election showed, too, how highly his services were prized; and he had great satisfaction in seconding the nomination.

Mr. COOK inquired if the election of Mayor would be affected by the participation of Mr. Crawshay and Mr. Aspdin, if it should turn out, as was alleged, that they were ineligible?

The TOWN CLERK replied in the negative. The responsibility rested solely on those gentlemen themselves, as individuals.

The motion was put, and carried unanimously, and with loud applause.

The MAYOR-ELECT made the required declarations and oath, and his election was then complete.

Mr. Ald. HAGGIE, resigning the chair and chain to his successor, expressed a hope that he would enjoy as much pleasure as had fallen to his own lot in his year of office, and be exposed to less danger. (Applause.)

The MAYOR returned thanks for his election. The Council had been pleased unanimously to confer upon him the highest honour which it was in their power to bestow. He was not insensible to the compliment, and would do his best to justify it, striving to fulfil his duties with credit to himself, and in a manner consistent with the honour and dignity of his office. (Applause.)

Mr. Ald. HAWKS said, it now devolved upon the Council gratefully to acknowledge the great, the meritorious services of the late Mayor. (Applause.) Towards the close of his mayoralty, he had been placed in peculiarly trying circumstances, and had nobly exerted himself for the preservation of life and property. (Applause.) To the latest hour of his life those exertions must be a feather in the worthy Alderman's cap. They were all glad to think that he had escaped the imminent peril in which he was placed, and would cordially join in thanking him for his distinguished services. (Applause.)

Mr. A. G. GRAY, heartily concurring in every word which had fallen from Mr. Ald. HAWKS, seconded the motion; and it was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Ald. HAGGIE said, the kindness of his colleagues had led them more than once to express their approbation of his conduct during his mayoralty; but never had he been more gratified by their thanks than at the present moment. It would always be a source of satisfaction to him in the future, that in retiring from the chair he had carried with him the unanimous thanks of a body comprising so many of the principal gentlemen of Gateshead. Most gratefully he thanked them for the kind assistance which they had rendered him, (a young man, and particularly needing their aid and their indulgence,) while in office, and for the approval which they had so warmly expressed of his conduct at the close of his mayoralty. (Applause.)

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The Council proceeded to the election of two River Commissioners for the ensuing year. Mr. Allhusen was nominated by Mr. Ald. ROBSON, and seconded by Mr. Ald. PEARSON. Mr. PETER HAGGIE nominated Mr. A. G. Gray, who was seconded by Mr. HEWITT. No other nomination being made, Messrs. Allhusen and Gray were declared duly elected, and returned thanks. Mr. ALLHUSEN alluded to the Royal Commission, and said the Tyne Commissioners would now soon know their fate — the question between the Eastern and Western River Commissioners would shortly be decided. Mr. A. G. GRAY took occasion to express an opinion that it would be well to have periodical reports to the Council—say at the quarterly meetings—from the Commissioners. (Applause.)

The next business to be disposed of was the election of an Auditor of the accounts of the River Commission. Mr. Ald. Smith wished to be relieved from the office, and Mr. Welford and Mr. Skelton were named, but begged to decline. In the end, Mr. Smith was prevailed upon to remain in office, and was unanimously elected.

Mr. PETER HAGGIE moved a vote of thanks to Messrs. Allhusen and Potts, the Commissioners of the past year; and to Mr. Smith, the Auditor. Seconded by Mr. IONN, and carried.

The TOWN CLERK read letters from Major-General Arbuthnot and Lieut.-Colonel Whittingham, in response to the resolution of the 21st ult., gratefully acknowledging the services of the military in connection with the late fire and explosion. Also the following letter from the father of the late Ensign Paynter :—

Kensington, October 31, 1854.

SIR,—In acknowledging the receipt of your letter, enclosing an extract from the minutes of the proceedings of the Council of the borough of Gateshead, at a meeting held at the townhall there, on the 20th instant, I beg leave through you to express to the Council my grateful sense of their sympathy with me and my family under our heavy affliction, occasioned by the death of my lamented son, Ensign Paynter, at the late calamitous fire, and of the kind wish thus manifested to soothe a sorrow that scarcely admits of earthly consolation; though it is undoubtedly a source of deep satisfaction to me, while mourning over the untimely perishing of so much hope and promise, to know that my son fell, and is recorded by a public body of so high position as having fallen, at his post of duty, and in the cause of humanity.

But should the loss of so many valuable lives on this melancholy occasion lead to the making provisions for protecting from similar catastrophies, in future, the peaceful populations of our large towns, as well as all those, whether military or civil, whose duty it may be, in cases of fire, to exert themselves in preserving life and property, I shall then endeavour to draw further consolation from thinking that my beloved son, and those who fell with him, have not fallen in vain.

I beg also to thank you personally for the kind and feeling terms in which your letter accompanying the extract is expressed, and have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

THOMAS PAYNTER.

George Johnson Kenmir, Esq., Town Clerk of the Borough of Gateshead.

Mr. Ald. ROBSON moved that these letters be entered on the minutes.—Seconded by Mr. Ald. LISTER, and agreed to.

The TOWN CLERK read a communication of the 6th inst. from the Public Works Loan Office, stating, in reply to a letter of the 4th, that in the event of a loan being granted to the Local Board of Health, the advances might be received in instalments.

Mr. Ald. ROBSON presented a short report from the Public Health Committee, comprising, among other things, a recommendation that complaint be made to the gas company of the insufficiency of their supply, and of its quality. Several accounts were named, with a recommendation that they be paid.

The report having been received, Mr. COOK expressed his regret that, notwithstanding his resolution, which was seconded by the present Mayor and adopted by the Council, 8 of the 24 members of their body appeared by the accounts to have traded with the Corporation, thereby disqualifying themselves to sit in Council, and rendering themselves liable to a penalty of £50 for every act of theirs as members of that body. He had spoken so often on this subject, that if the disreputable practice were persisted in, he now gave notice of his intention to sue for penalties.

Mr. PROCKTER agreed with Mr. Cook. The transactions were so small that the profit could be no object, but the law should be observed, and he hoped such things would not occur again.

The MAYOR said, he had no doubt these remarks would prove sufficient for their object.

Mr. A. G. GRAY suggested that the fault must lie with the servants of the Corporation, who made purchases at the places of business of Councillors, without their knowledge. This should be avoided. He had no doubt the small account due to Mr. Hewitt had been incurred without his knowledge.

Mr. HEWITT said, so far as he was concerned, th account (38s.) was the same which had been com mented upon before. It was for some article purchased for the surveyor's office a year and a half ago, and before Mr. Cook's resolution was moved.

Mr. WOOLSTON said, the account which he had against the Corporation was incurred before he was a Councillor.

Mr. HALL stated that, since the resolution was passed, he believed it had been strictly adhered to.

Mr. Ald. HAGGIE stated, that he was one of those who had supplied goods to the Corporation, and he had done so since the date of the resolution. On the Sunday following the explosion, when the bodies of some of the sufferers were found, and ropes and planks were wanted for their removal, he had allowed the public to have what they required from the establishment of himself and partner. He knew the law, but he said if the Corporation did not choose to pay him, they might have the goods as a gift. (Applause.)

Mr. Ald. SMITH made some remark which we did not catch; and Mr. HALL stated that Mr. Aspdin's account was incurred before his election.

Mr. Ald. PEARSON said, Mr. Woolston's account was for finding a place of deposit for rubbish. He had allowed the Corporation to deposit rubbish in his quarry at threepence a load. Must they, henceforth, go farther and pay more, because Mr. Woolston was a Councillor?

Mr. Ald. LISTER : Pay the cartman, and let him go where he likes.

The report was adopted.

Mr. Ald. SMITH presented a report from the Finance Committee, exhibiting a balance in hand, on the borough account, of £336 5s. 6d.; with accounts to pay amounting to about £100. The report recommended that Mr. Neilson's premises at the bridge-end, injured by the explosion, be repaired out of the

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market-fund; and that £300, part of that fund, be placed on deposit receipt with the Commercial Bank, in order to increase the rate of interest.

The report having been received, the TOWN CLERK stated, in reply to Mr. BRINTON, that the premises were not insured. Mr. PROCKTER: They should be.

Mr. Ald. SMITH moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. COOK seconded the motion, and inquired if that would be a proper time to remark upon a very discreditable practice which had arisen in the conducting of elections.

The MAYOR thought Mr. Cook had better defer his remarks; and the motion was put and carried.

The MAYOR presented a report from the Watch Committee, recommending that the Gateshead, Newcastle, North and South Shields, Sunderland, and County police, who had rendered good service during and after the late fire, be paid for their extra exertions—each policeman 2s. 6d. per day, each inspector 4s., and each superintendent (exclusive of Mr. Schorey) 6s. Mr. Schorey to have £2 2s.

The only objection made to this report was founded on the smallness of the recompense—the late Mayor and others speaking with great warmth on the services, night and day, of Mr. Schorey, and of the police generally. It was unanimously resolved that the report be referred back for further consideration.

Mr. Ald. LISTER presented a report from the Baths and Laundries Committee, chiefly relating to the damage sustained by the building from the explosion. It closed with a recommendation that it be insured for £3,000 in the County Fire Office—a selection, it appeared, which had been made at the instance of Mr. Ald. Smith, whose losses on the Quayside had been promptly made good by the "County." These, however, Mr. Ald. Haggie observed, had arisen from fire, and not from mere wreck by the explosion; and while other offices had come forward and made compensation for damage not done by fire, the County Office had stood out.

Mr. COOK said, the County was one of those offices which, not to their credit, had repudiated their liability. He was insured in one of those offices, which, after receiving his payments many years, declined to make good his losses in full, as a matter of right, but deducted 20 per cent., and required him to receive what was awarded cap in hand, as mere charity. Mr. Cook contrasted this conduct with that of the Sun, Atlas, Anchor, and other offices.

Mr. Ald. SMITH said, he had received compensation from the Sun as a trustee, and it was given, not as a right, but as a gift.

Mr. Ald. LISTER said that he, too, on receiving compensation from the Sun, had been called upon to give a receipt acknowledging that it was a gift.

This appeared to be the general form in which compensation had been made; and, moreover, that the offices were about to adopt some common rule as to explosions.

It was resolved, finally, that the Town Clerk should have the building insured in the Sun, Atlas, Essex Economic, Anchor, or County — whichever office would grant a policy on the most eligible terms.

Subject to this resolution, the report was adopted.

Mr. Ald. HAWKS presented a report from the Gateshead Quay and Improvement Committee, recommending the adoption of a memorial to the Chancellor of the Exchequer accepting an offered loan of £35,000, to be advanced for the purposes of the proposed improvements eighteen months hence, and that Mr. Hutt be requested to forward the memorial, and to assist in bringing the negotiation to a conclusion.

The report, on the motion of Mr. Ald. HAWKS, seconded by Mr. Ald. HAGGIE, was received; and the former gentleman then moved its confirmation—observing that the subject to which the report related was one of the most serious and important kind that had come under the consideration of the Council for many years. He recapitulated the steps which had led to the obtainment of the Government offer, and which would enable the Council to go to parliament for a bill. Mr. A. G. GRAY and Mr. ALLHUSEN rose together to second Mr. Hawks's motion. Mr. Allhusen said, the thanks of the Corporation were due to Mr. Hutt for his good offices, through which they had got an offer of the means of carrying out their project; while, at the same time, if they did not get their bill, they need not accept the loan.—After some remarks from other Councillors, Mr. COOK inquired if the Committee had not exceeded their powers in acting without the Council?—The MAYOR said, they had simply ascertained where a loan could be got; and now they came to the Council to ask if they were disposed to place the Corporation in a condition to obtain this loan, if, at a future day, they should require it.—Mr. COOK thought the Committee had erred in converting Mr. Hutt into a Town Clerk for the time being. This was, he thought, a strange and unusual proceeding, and looked very like an attempt to create political capital for the honourable member. (No, no!) Why could not the application for a loan have been made in the regular way through the Town Clerk? Mr. Cook, after an allusion to Mr. Hutt's interference in the late East ward election, contended that they should first see if parliament would sanction those improvements which they all desired to see effected, before they thought of getting into debt.—The TOWN CLERK explained, that Mr. Hutt had not stepped in, to take his (Mr. Kenmir's) place, but, being applied to, had undertaken duties which were thought by the Committee to belong peculiarly to the member for the borough.—Mr. CRAWSHAY thought the money ought to be raised independently of the Government. It was of doubtful advantage to a Corporation, as it was to a private individual, to be enabled to borrow money easily. Such a facility was apt to lead to ruin. They had a great and difficult project in hand. If it were likely to prove remunerative, he had little doubt of their ability to carry it out with the assistance of contractors and others. If not—if it were likely to entail expenditure on the borough—then the enterprise was one in which they could not embark. The resources could be raised within themselves, if the improvements would pay, and they need not go to the Government. He disapproved of the principle of Government loans to the provinces for any such purpose. He was friendly to local self-government; but as the motion would not bind the Council to effect a loan, he would not divide against it; more especially as, in the absence of legal advice, he knew not but he might be performing an act that would expose him to proceedings at law. He would simply add, that he thought Newcastle and Gateshead were strong enough of themselves to carry out all necessary improvements.—The MAYOR said there would be no compulsion to take the loan.—Mr. PETER HAGGIE: Having it at command will simply enable us to go to parliament.—Mr. HEWITT expressed a hope that the fullest

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information would be laid before the Council, as to the proposed improvements, before they were called upon to commit themselves to anything final.—The MAYOR said, the Committee must come to the Council for powers, or they would do nothing.—In the course of further discussion, it was explained that the carrying out of the report would simply place Gateshead first on the list for the loan—with power to have it, or not, as they liked.—The report was adopted.

Routine business was now transacted.

The quarterly meetings were appointed to be held on the first Wednesdays in February, May, and August.

The Committees were chosen, viz., Watch (Mr. Mayor *ex officio* Chairman); Finance (Alderman Smith); Public Health (Alderman Robson); Parliamentary, Railway, and Byelaw, (Alderman Hawks); Baths and Laundries (Alderman Lister). — The Improvement Committee, as remodelled, consists of Aldermen Hawks (Chairman), Pearson, and Lister; and Counciilors Allhusen, Aspdin, Brinton, Cook, Haggie (Peter), and Skelton. The MAYOR observed, that the well-working of the Council depended mainly on the Committees, and he hoped every member would do his best to attend their meetings.

Mr. HEWITT trusted that the Parliamentary Committee would give their attention to the bill to be brought into parliament, in the next session, by the Hexham road trustees, and see if something could not be done about the tollgate that was placed in the very midst of the borough, and which was made to bear with double pressure on the people of Newcastle and all others not resident in Gateshead. Now was the time, when the trustees were going before parliament, to press for a remedy. — Expressions of concurrence were uttered on all sides; and Mr. BRINTON said, the borough was beset on every hand by these obnoxious tolls; you could hardly go out of your front door and return by the back, without being tolled.

The MAYOR read a note from Mr. E. D. Welford, requesting a share of the corporate advertisements for the *Northern Examiner*. Mr. Ald. HAWKS said there could be no objection to this request. Mr. Ald. HAGGIE moved that it be granted. Seconded by Mr. A. G. GRAY, and carried.

Mr. G. CRAWSHAY now stated, that having received a notice intimating to him that he was ineligible to sit there as a Councillor, he proposed to place his case in the hands of the Town Clerk, and to be guided by his opinion.—In reply to Mr. A. G. GRAY, Mr. C. added, that he had no intention to involve the Council in a defence of his seat. If he went to law, it should be at his own cost. —The TOWN CLERK suggested that it might be better if Mr. Crawshay were to place himself in the hands of some other legal adviser. He thought that he (Mr. Kenmir) should neither assail nor defend the seat of any member of the Council.—Mr. CRAWSHAY acceded to the Town Clerk's suggestion.

The MAYOR read a letter from the Secretary of the Dispensary (Mr. Kell), on the subject of the annual sermon for the benefit of the charity, to be preached this year in St. Edmund's chapel, by the Vicar of Newcastle; and it was resolved that the Council do assemble, as usual, at the Townhall, at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning (Nov. 12), and walk thence to church.

The Council, after a sitting of about four hours, adjourned to Wednesday, November 22.

In the evening, the major portion of the members dined together at Miss Murray's, the Queen's Head Hotel, (the new Mayor in the chair). An excellent dinner was served up, and the remainder of the night was pleasantly spent.

SAFETY OF CAPTAIN COLLINSON.

HER Majesty's ship *Rattlesnake* arrived at San Francisco on the 25th of September, homeward bound. We find the following account of the progress and safety of Captain Collinson in the *San Francisco Herald*:—

Her Majesty's ship *Rattlesnake*, Commander Henry Trollope, arrived at our bay on Monday, September 25, having left Port Clarence, Arctic Ocean, August 23, at 8 P.M. This ship wintered at Port Clarence the last winter, and as soon as the ice broke endeavoured to reach Herald Island, cruising as near, or nearer, the edge of the ice than safety justified, from Point Barrow, on the American side, to Serdze Kamen, on the Asiatic side of the Arctic Sea. The most important news brought by the *Rattlesnake* is the arrival at Port Clarence on the 21st of August of Her Britannic Majesty's ship *Enterprise*, Captain Collinson, from his long expedition into the Arctic Sea in search of Sir John Franklin. It will be recollected that this vessel sailed from England in the same season and at about the same time as the *Investigator* (Captain M'Clure), that arrived on the Atlantic side of the continent a year since, having navigated the north-west passage. No news having been received of the *Enterprise*, almost as much anxiety was felt for her safety and that of her officers and crew as for the expedition she was in search of; so much as to induce the English Government to station for her relief and assistance the *Rattlesnake* at Port Clarence, and the *Plover* at Point Barrow, during the last winter, and they were both arranging for their succeeding winter quarters at the time of her arrival, at the ending of which season the Government had given orders to abandon the search for them. The *Enterprise* went into the Arctic Sea in the summer of 1851, and passed through Prince of Wales Straits; but, finding the ice impracticable for her advance, she passed the winter of 1851-2 in lat. 71 deg. 35 min. N., long. 117 deg. 35 min. W. After making every exertion to obtain the object of her voyage, the winter of 1852-3 was passed in Cambridge Bay, Wollaston Land, 69 deg. N., 105 deg. 30 min. W. Still proceeding on her voyage, the winter of 1853-4 found her in Camden Bay, 70 deg. 8 min. N., 145 deg. 30 min. W. The ice released the vessel on the 15th of July, 1854, when she commenced her return passage, but did not reach Point Barrow until the 9th of August, having baffling southerly winds and calms. Immediately on her arrival at Port Clarence, on the 21st of August, finding the *Plover* had left for Point Barrow a few days previously, for the purpose of assisting and relieving her, as soon as her supplies could be put on board from the *Rattlesnake*, at 3 P.M. on the 22d she started to overtake the *Plover*, and communicate with and recall her; which duty performed, she would immediately proceed to Hongkong, and the *Plover* to Valparaiso, where the latter will meet the *Rattlesnake*, which leaves this port to-day. During the three years the *Enterprise* has been in the

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frozen sea she has lost but three men—May 15, 1853, William Driver, ship's cook; November 24, 1853, William Greenaway, able seamen; June 29, 29, 1854, William Cheeseman, private of Marines. The commander, officers, and crew, 59 in number, were in excellent health. We regret to state that no information was obtained of the fate of Sir John Franklin. The *Enterprise* found traces of the *Investigator's* passage in many places, and went within 90 miles of Winter Harbour, but, not being able to proceed farther on account of the ice, she went up Wollaston Strait, and there fell in with traces of Dr. Rae's searches. In the spring of 1852 travelling parties were despatched over the ice, one of which reached Melville Island after great hardship. The natives met with during the voyage were of a peaceable and kind disposition, ready at all times to be of assistance in any manner in their power. Probably no more interesting news, save information of Sir John Franklin, could be given to the world than the safety of this ship. Embarked on an errand of mercy, which drew the attention of almost every civilized being towards them, it was feared they had met the supposed fate of those they had proceeded to save. The news of their extrication will everywhere be received with joy.

THE RAVENSWORTH FAMILY.—We regret much to announce the death of the Countess of Strathmore, which took place on Nov. 3, at Florence. Her ladyship was the eldest daughter of Viscount Barrington by the daughter of Lord Ravensworth, and was married to the Earl of Strathmore about four years ago. She was but 28 years of age, and leaves no issue.—*Globe.*

THE RIVER TYNE COMMISSION.—This Board was partially reconstituted on Thursday, the 9th Nov., under the act of parliament by which it is governed, and is now composed of the following gentlemen :—

Life Commissioners...	Captain Purdo, R.N.
	Mr. J. C. Stevenson
	Mr. Joseph Cowen
	Mr. William Rutherford Hunter
Newcastle	Mr. Ralph Dodds
	Mr. Thomas Ridley
	Mr. John Ormston
	Mr. John Rayne
	Mr. R. P. Philipson
	Mr. William Armstrong
Gateshead	Mr. Christian Allhusen
	Mr. Alexander George Gray.
Tynemouth	Captain Linskill
	Mr. Matthew Peppelwell
	Mr. Joseph Straker
South Shields	Mr. John Robinson
	Mr. James Mather
	Mr. John Clay

Mr. Cowen was on Nov. 10, on the motion of Mr. Dodds, seconded by Mr. Clay, reëlected to the chair. It appeared—1. That Mr. Walker would be present at the next meeting of the Piers Committee, on the 21st inst.—2. That Mr. Brooks had been instructed by the Royal Commissioners to prepare plans for the inquiry.—3. That the illness of Mr. Harrison had delayed progress with the Jarrow docks.—Adjourned to November 21.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, GATESHEAD.—The Rector, Dr. Davies, responding to the toast of "The Bishop and Clergy," at the dinner which followed on Nov. 8th the laying of the foundation-stones of two of the Vicar's Schools, said :—On a recent occasion, his lordship's liberality had been manifested in a very remarkable degree. During the late awful catastrophe which had desolated a large portion of Newcastle and Gateshead, his lordship had written a letter to him liberally offering his aid and assistance on behalf of the sufferers; and when the question had been raised as to whether a new church should replace the ruined parish church of Gateshead, or the old one should be renovated, his lordship had offered to place his name on the list of subscribers for £600, if the erection of a new church should be determined upon. The question was still being discussed on the other side of the water whether a new church should be erected in another locality, or the old one should be renovated.—(The Vicar of Newcastle: A new one, certainly' Doctor.)—He should be very much delighted at that. The only thing that interfered was, that they were a little afraid of the expense. If he (the Doctor) were authorized to say to the meeting which would be held in his parish next week, that they had the sympathy of the splendid and numerous gathering assembled here this evening, in the undertaking of that work, he had no doubt it would put them in such spirit that they would make no delay in its commencement. He trusted that at no distant day he should see a church on the other side of the water, just opposite their equally (or still more) splendid structure on this side, symbolically representative of the bond of harmony and amity which existed between the two towns. (Applause.)

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.—At the monthly meeting of the committee, held on Nov. 7, Mr. Crasier, the house-surgeon, reported that 500 casual cases had been attended during the month, 116 cases with letters, and 140 accidents, viz. :—

Bruises	63	Injuries to eye	7
Scalp wounds, &c. ...	28	Sprains	5
Burns and scalds ...	26	Dislocations	1
Fractures.....	8	Amputations	2

These cases of accident mainly arose out of the late fire and explosion. It is due to the charity to say, in correction of a mistatement, that injuries from accident receive attention without reference to the residence of the sufferers, or the places where they were hurt; and if a sick person applies, temporary relief is granted even without a letter. The following new subscriptions have been received in aid of the Building Fund :—

Abbot's Foundrymen, Smiths, Fitters, Cartmen, Brass Founders, Warehousemen, and Officemen, (in addition to subscriptions from the Anchor, Chain, and Forge Departments, already announced)	£19	7	6
Haggie Brothers' Workmen	6	17	9
Workmen of Mr. T. Andrews	1	4	6
Workmen of Mr. Firbank	0	8	0
Three Working Men	0	6	0
Mr. Thomas Wardman	1	1	0
Mr. Thomas Andrews	0	10	6

Messrs. Abbot's workmen have subscribed, in all, the handsome sum of £31 2s. The £2,000 will be raised yet, all despairing predictions notwithstanding.

BETHESDA CHAPEL, GATESHEAD.—On Wednesday, Nov. 8th, a bazaar was opened, for three days, in the long room of the Queen's Head Hotel, Gateshead, to aid in lightening the debt which burdens the above place of worship. The stalls were handsomely and abundantly provided with goods by the kindness of numerous friends, and the sales have yielded a substantial sum—not short of £200.

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MECHANICS' INSTITUTE,

GATESHEAD.

THE annual social and business meeting of the members and their friends was held on Wednesday evening, the 15th Nov., in the hall of the institution, and went off with great animation and effect, and much to the gratification and satisfaction of every one present.

There were ten tables, at which the following ladies presided, viz:—Mrs. Charles J. Pearson, Mrs. Charles Dunn, Mrs. George Boyd, Miss Murray, Mrs. T. C. Angus, Miss Robson, Mrs. George Cooper, Mrs. Benjamin Barkus, Mrs. Joseph Clephan, and Mrs. Joseph Carr.

After tea, the chair was taken by the President, WILLIAM HUTT, Esq., M.P., with the Mayor of Gateshead (R. W. Hodgson Esq.) on his right, and the Mayor of Newcastle (I. L. Bell, Esq.) on his left. Several other influential gentlemen were on the platform; with also a number of musical friends of the institution—comprising Mr. H. F. Hemy (who presided at a pianoforte kindly lent, according to annual custom, by Mr. Thomas Shields, of Northumberland-street, Newcastle), Mr. William Ferry (parish-clerk of St. Mary's), and several members of the excellent choir of St. John's, Gateshead Fell—namely, Misses Jane Stephenson, Ann Newton, and Mary Jane Fairs, and Messrs. George and Robert Ferry, William Richardson, and George Cuthbert.

The PRESIDENT, on taking the chair, addressed the company, saying:—We are assembled to-night, according to our established custom, to receive the report of the Committee that has managed our affairs during the past year, to receive the budget of our Chancellor of the Exchequer, and to elect our annual parliament for the management of our affairs during the year ensuing. Repetitions are generally tiresome things; but I think you will not complain of me if I venture to renew, on this occasion, a statement which I have frequently had occasion to make before—namely, that the affairs of our institution are in a flourishing condition. (Applause.) Such, I understand, is the fact. The state of our finances, our list of subscribers, and the evidence which is afforded by our library of the usefulness and popularity of the institution, all go to establish this satisfactory conclusion. Now, the merit of having placed us in this gratifying position, is undoubtedly due to those gentlemen who, in various capacities, have for several years past, with a degree of sagacity and public spirit which I hope will long be remembered in our annals, performed the parts of the managers of our affairs. (Applause.) They have managed our affairs with great prudence and great economy; and have lost no opportunity which they considered to be in their power of giving attractiveness and efficiency to the institution. I have no doubt that the Committee whom you will elect to-night, and who are willing to take the responsibility of that office, will be animated by the same admirable spirit. And let them not suppose that because they find everything proceeding in excellent order—that because the machinery of the institution is working smoothly and easily—therefore no opportunity is given to them for special usefulness and distinction. I can assure them that, much as has been done, a good deal still remains to be accomplished. For instance, it has been asserted that there must be something inherently vicious in the organization of this and similar institutions, inasmuch as they have been unable, from some cause or other, to command the support and confidence of the mechanics and working classes generally. I will venture to recommend this subject to the serious consideration of the Committee now about to take office. (Applause.) I am sure that they could not render a greater service—I will not say to their native town—I was almost going the length of saying a greater service to their native country—than by rendering these institutions, which have now taken root throughout the length and breadth of the land, available to the working millions of our country. (Applause.) Some observations which I happened to make upon this subject a few weeks ago at South Shields, have drawn forth a public letter on the subject from the secretary of a society which, I believe, is called the Independent Reading Room of Carlisle—Mr. Wall. He thinks the fault rests mainly with the institutions themselves. I will not myself presume to express an opinion upon that subject. But I must say that when I find a town like Gateshead with a population perhaps of not less than 30,000 persons — with an institution, I must say, admirably managed—and that there is not on our list of members a greater number than some ten or twenty of the working or mechanical classes, I must come to the conclusion that somehow or somewhere something must be wrong. I trust the Committee will give their attention to this subject. Mr. Wall, in a letter well deserving attention, says the fault rests with the institutions. He remarks that our institutions do not rest on a basis sufficiently broad or sufficiently popular, and that they are not self supporting; that they are dependent on patronage; and that where the wishes of the patrons and the views of the managing Committee come into conflict, if the Committee do not give way, the patronage is withdrawn, and the institution suffers in consequence. I deny that this is a fair representation of any Mechanics' Institution within the circle of my own experience; and I appeal to you whether it be a fair description of the Mechanics' Institution of Gateshead. Patronage, indeed! I should like to see the patrons, the absence or the presence of whose favour could exercise any appreciable difference on the fortunes of this society. (Applause.) I am persuaded that the greatest man amongst us, whoever he may be, lends no more vitality to the Gateshead Mechanics' Institution than one of those gaslights can lend lustre to the beams of the noonday sun. Nor can we be thought to be encumbered with patronage of another description—patronage on which some institutions, perhaps, have rested too little. I see near me the Mayor of Gateshead, the Mayor of Newcastle (applause), and several other gentlemen. I see by their side several gentlemen whom one always expects to meet when any generous or public spirited work is going forward. They are patrons, if you please; but I may be permitted to remark—and the sentiment is consistent with the deepest respect—that they are here to-night, not to confer distinction, but to receive it. They are here to be associated with a great act for the promotion of popular education—a work which, even if they were disposed, they could not arrest, but which I am sure they feel it to be their highest honour and privilege to promote. (Applause.) It cannot be fairly said, I think, that this institution is cribbed or confined from being patronized. As little can I think Mr. Wall

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correct when he says that such an institution is not placed on a basis sufficiently broad and popular. Why, we are here as independent electors, exercising our franchise under the freest regimen of annual parliaments, vote by ballot, and universal suffrage. We exercise that suffrage in its strict and true meaning—(which meaning is seldom attached to it in common parlance) — for we have no selfish exemptions — we admit even ladies to the franchise. (Hear, hear.) We have reached the limits of popular government, and can go no further. I think, then, on these two points, and some others, Mr. Wall is in error when he says he has discovered the causes of the evil which we wish to remedy. Still, there is no denying that the evil exists; and I trust the Committee will give their attention to the subject. If it be a subject which offers them some difficulties, I am sure it offers at the same time a commensurate reward; for it is a truth which was early impressed on my mind, and which the observation of more than twenty years in public life has only tended to confirm, that the first of our interests as citizens, the first of our duties, and the most practical of all benevolence, is the education of the people. (The honourable member resumed his seat amidst the most cordial applause.)

Mr. JAMES GUTHRIE, one of the Secretaries, read the report of the Committee :—

One of the first acts of your Committee, after their election in 1853, was to appoint a subcommittee to make inquiries and report upon the desirableness of an enlargement of this building, as suggested at the last anniversary meeting by His Worship the Mayor of Gateshead. The result of the labours of such subcommittee, and of repeated considerations of the matter by your Committee, may be stated as follows :—

1. That the cost of enlargement, to the extent of 20 or 30 eet in length, would not be less than £500.

2. That the ground to the south of the building cannot at present be obtained for building purposes.

3. Application was made to Mr. Swinburne as to the terms on which the piece of ground to the north of the building could be obtained, who replied that the price would be 16s. per square yard, amounting on the whole to £96 12s., and that his consent to the institution to build upon such ground would only be given on condition that the proposed enlargement was for purposes strictly within the original rules under which the institution was first erected.

4. That some of the largest subscriptions offered in furtherance of the project were only offered on condition that the hall be available for balls and other public objects.

Your Committee could not recommend that any subscription be accepted on the condition named, as that would be tantamount to placing the room beyond their control—a principle which they think ought not to be recognized.

Under the circumstances above stated, together with the understood feeling existing against the measure on the part of many members, your Committee did not feel it proper to press for further proceedings with regard to the movement.

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to the Messrs. Haggie for their handsome offer of the munificent donation of 100 guineas in furtherance of the project. (Applause.)

The general proceedings of the Committee during the year do not present much that is novel or calling for lengthened remark.

The issue of books during the year, from the 16th of November, 1853, to the 8th of November, 1854, has been 7,721.

The number of members is now 264, being a decrease of 6 on last year.

The number of volumes purchased during the year is 55, exclusive of periodicals. The total number of volumes now in the library and available for circulation is 3,600.

Your Committee would beg to draw the attention of the members to the desirableness of their continuing to make recommendations in the Request Book of such works as they wish to bring under the notice of the Committee, as, during the last year, there has been a decided falling off in such recommendations, and the purchases of books have thus been fewer than in previous years.

Your Committee are now engaged in the preparation of a new catalogue of the books, which, when completed, it is hoped will prove of service. Considerable difference of opinion has existed in the Committee as to the most convenient mode of classifying the books in the catalogue, or it would, ere this, have been in the hands of the members.

At the May meeting it was announced that Ralph Walters, Esq., one of our Vice Presidents, had made a donation of £5 to the Institute. The best thanks of the Committee were conveyed to Mr. Walters for his present.

The usual annual excursion took place on Monday, the 19th of June, when about 120 of the members and their friends had a delightful trip to Harrogate and Knaresborough.

At the meeting in October, the Committee decided on the institute joining the Northern Union of Mechanics' Institutes.

Your Committee, in closing their report, would beg, firstly, to express an earnest wish that the public of Gateshead would come forward in more rapidly-increasing numbers to avail themselves of the great advantages for the attainment of useful knowledge which this institute presents, and, secondly, to impress upon those already members of the institution the desirableness of making greater efforts, by the formation of classes and other modes of mutual instruction, still further to increase and extend the facilities it already presents as an educational establishment.

Mr. CORNELIUS GARBUTT, the Treasurer, read his balance-sheet, from which it appeared that there had been received and expended during the year :—

Subscriptions		£114	9 0
Sale of newspapers		12	19 11
Donation by Ralph Walters, Esq.		5	0 0
Miscellaneous receipts		3	0 11
		£135	9 10
Books and binding	£34 10 2		
Newspapers	39 10 10		
Printing, advertising, stationery, &c.	4 5 3½		
Gas, water, coals, insurance, &c.	20 9 4		
Salaries	23 5 10		
Miscellaneous	12 9 8		
		134	11 1½
Surplus receipts		£0	18 8½

The balance due the Treasurer was much about the same this year as last. There was, apart from the ordinary account of the institution, a sum of £125 lying at interest in the Commercial Bank. The Treasurer drew attention to the circumstance that the newspapers of the past year had cost more than the sum expended on books, and expressed a hope that, while maintaining the newsroom, the Committee would not neglect to keep up the library. (Hear, hear.)

Glee and Chorus, "Awake, Æolian Lyre."

The MAYOR OF GATESHEAD, who was received with much applause, moved the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, and briefly expressed his good wishes towards the institution.

Mr. JAMES BROWN seconded the adoption of the motion, and said :—

There can be only one opinion as to the justice of the remarks of our Chairman in reference to the free and unfettered constitution of our society; yet I think the Committee and members may consider themselves fortunate in

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to-night being honoured with the presence of the Chief Magistrates of the two boroughs, and also in having the able support of the honourable gentleman who has so long and worthily filled the office of President to this institution. Not only in this neighbourhood, but generally throughout the country, it is pleasing to witness the encouragement given to literary societies by those who hold high and honourable position in society. When we see such men as Lord John Russell, the Earl of Carlisle, Lord Stanley, and others so warmly interesting themselves in the prosperity of Mechanics' Institutions, we need not despair of the time speedily coming when the Government of our country shall be induced to further the interests of such institutions in a more energetic way than they have hitherto done. (Cheers.) The great interest evinced, at the present time, in the spread of education, presents a pleasing contrast to the difficulties that beset its early advocates. When Dr. Birkbeck first propounded his scheme for the establishment of Mechanics' Institutions, he had much opposition to contend against. It was argued by many that by instilling secular knowledge into the minds of the masses of the people, a spirit of discontent and insubordination would be called into existence. However, regardless of these prophecies of evil, he manfully persevered in his disinterested work; and now, after the lapse of long years, we have evidence the most striking that the diffusion of knowledge, instead of producing dislocation in society, has only tended to place the institutions of our country on a firmer and surer basis; and all history confirms the fact, that that Government is the most enlightened and free from corruption whose proceedings are watched by a reading and thoughtful people. (Hear, hear.) It is, however, happily now too far advanced in the day to require any arguments being brought forward to convince people of the utility of supporting Mechanics' Institutions. The question now is, not whether it is right to support such institutions, but how can the most likely means be devised to render them more generally useful. Men of all shades of politics have been leagued together to solve this question. Doubtless the machinery by which our institutions are worked is capable of improvement; much, probably, might be done to make them both more instructive and attractive; but taking our institutions as they are, no man can deny that they have conferred on society an immense amount of good. (Applause.) We have, almost in every town, living instances of those who, by availing themselves of the benefits to be derived from such societies, have, in the face of difficulties apparently insuperable, attained a high and honourable distinction for literary and scientific attainments, and many of whom have not contented themselves by merely mastering existing difficulties, but by new discoveries have extended the boundaries of human knowledge, The spread of education during the last twenty years has told with considerable effect on our character as a people. We had a striking instance of this six years ago, when the whole Continent of Europe was convulsed — when Governments were upset and Crowns kicked about like foot-balls; yet old England felt not the shock, she remained calm and dignified; her people pursued their usual avocations; her great works of improvement went on; the trafficking demagogue attempted in vain to arouse the passions of the people. Now, why was this? Was it not because the good sense of the people of England told them, if they had wrongs to be redressed, the Press was a more powerful weapon than the Sword. (Applause.) The history of the last half-century tells us, in language most plain and convincing, that as the people have advanced in knowledge, they have also advanced in political power. In any country, political elevation is sure to follow mental and individual improvement. The late Lord Durham was well aware of this fact, when, on learning of the defeat of a great political measure, the object of which was to increase the privileges of the people, he remarked to a friend, "We must establish Mechanics' Institutions." (Applause) This was a wise observation; and if the teeming millions of this country would only cultivate those faculties with which God has endowed them, they would soon find themselves in possession of a power which no charter in the universe could confer upon them, and of which all the injustice of earth could not deprive them; for no Government could withstand the just and peaceful demands of a great, united, and intelligent people. (Applause.) By a more general support being vouchsafed to our Mechanics' Institutions, the moral and physical improvement of the people would be furthered. It is to be regretted that the report which has been read gives a small diminution in the number of members. Let us hope, however, that the year on which we this day enter may be marked by more cheering results, and that Gateshead, which has been so sorely tried, may regain her wonted energy, and carry on with vigour those great public improvements, the completion of which would give such an impetus to our trade and commerce, and so well promote the health and prosperity of all classes of the community. Should this be one, then indeed we shall show to the world at large, that the dreadful calamity by which our town has been afflicted has not been an unmixed evil, but has left a blessing behind it. (Applause.)

Song (Mr. Ferry), "The Impatient Husbandman."

The Mayor of Newcastle was called upon to move the next resolution, and stood up amidst loud acclamations. He proposed a vote of thanks to the Officers and Committee of the past year, with the best wishes of the meeting for the success of Mechanics' and kindred institutions. Comparative stranger as I am amongst you, (said Mr. Bell,) I am not indifferent to the success of this and kindred institutions; and, as your honourable President has justly remarked, I should confer upon myself much more honour by adding, if I could, to your usefulness and efficiency, than I could confer honour upon you — even by the high office which I have the proud distinction to hold. In endeavouring to ascertain the exact amount of gratitude due from this institution to the officers who have been entrusted with its management during the past year, I have simply glanced at the Treasurer's report. Now I believe that the charge which I am about to make against the Chancellor of your Exchequer is a somewhat unusual one; for in connection with all the budgets which Chancellors of the Exchequer from time to time have been in the habit of bringing before parliament and before the country, I never yet heard them blamed for having a surplus. (Laughter.) But the question assumes a very different aspect when we see so large a surplus in connection with an institution of this character. Although I am entrusted with this motion, I trust it will not be considered that I am exceeding the bounds of propriety when, as an old member of a Mechanics' Institution, and an old officer connected with a very large one, I venture to express an humble opinion that there is something not quite right in the administration of your affairs here; because this report presupposes that £125 in the banker's hands is of more value than that amount of literary works on the shelves of your library. (Hear, hear.) I heard with some regret that this institution is not more thoroughly supported by the mechanics of this district. I regret this in common with you; but I am far from drawing from it any very melancholy forebodings or fears as to the great value of these institutions, or their great influence over society. I do not believe that such an institution as this can shed its light even over a very circumscribed number of inhabitants, without reflecting on the happiness and welfare of those from whose name it took its appellation—namely, the mechanics. I think the last few years have shown the great value which these institutions are to the country; and as no inconsiderable employer of labour I can bear my unqualified testimony that the men who are most reasonable, most easily dealt with, and with whom

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one prefers to treat, are precisely that class of men who have taken the most advantage of such institutions as the present. (Applause.) If one dared to introduce into a meeting like this, so entirely pacific in its character, any allusion to those great events which are stirring up the whole of Europe at the present moment, I would venture to say, that it is an intimate knowledge of the glorious and sacred cause that those men are fighting for which enables them to wield the sabre in those distant lands with such brilliancy and success. I do not think it is mere brute courage which sustains them in that dreadful conflict. (Applause.) The germs of knowledge which have been sown in their minds enable them to appreciate and act upon the glorious principles for which they are fighting. (Applause.) With these few remarks, qualifying them, as I have ventured to do, in reference to your Chancellor of the Exchequer, who I think ought not to be entrusted with so large a sum in hand (laughter), I beg to move the resolution of thanks of the members to the officers and committee for the past year. (Cheers.)

The Town Clerk (J. G. Kenmir, Esq.) seconded the vote of thanks, while concurring in the modicum of blame with which it was accompanied by the Mayor of Newcastle.

Glee, "Queen of the Valley."

Mr. James Clephan acknowledged the compliment paid to the Officers and Committee, and explained that the members were indebted for the £125 to the munificence of the Lord of the Manor, Cuthbert Ellison, Esq., and the gift had been deposited the bank to meet any emergency which might arise. There was last year a prospect that it might be applied in aid of an enlargement of the building. That project had been set aside by the late Committee; the members of the institution had now approved the decision; and it remained for the Committee of the ensuing year to profit by the admonition of the Mayor of Newcastle.

Song (Mr. Hemy), "Katty, Darling."

Mr. William Hedley moved a vote of thanks to the retiring Treasurer and Secretary, Mr. C. Garbutt and Mr. Joseph Carr, for their long and valuable services, and reviewed the rise and progress of the institution, from the time when the late Mr. Swinburne was Treasurer, and Messrs. Kell and Brady were Secretaries. The successor of Mr. Swinburne was Mr. Garbutt, to whom the members were mainly indebted for the erection of the building which they now occupied, and which was unincumbered with debt.

Mr. Charles Burney, in seconding the motion, delivered an eloquent speech; and the vote of thanks was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Garbutt and Mr. Carr responded to the compliment bestowed upon them.

Trio, "Turn on, Old Time."

Mr. S. S. Robson moved a vote of thanks to the ladies who had so kindly favoured the meeting with their presence, and particularly the ladies who had presided at the tea-tables.

Mr. Thomas Pringle having seconded the motion; it was carried by acclamation.

Mr. F. P. Ionn, being loudly called upon, returned thanks for the ladies, and took occasion to remark that the Gateshead Mechanics' Institute ought to feel proud of always being the first public body to receive a visit from the Mayors of the two boroughs, and to hear their maiden speeches. (Laughter and applause.) Mr. Ionn moved a vote of thanks to their Worships for their kind attendance.

Seconded by Mr. Carr, and carried by acclamation.

Song (Mr. Robert Ferry), "The Death of Nelson."

The Mayor of Gateshead returned thanks in a few well-chosen words, and was loudly applauded.

The Mayor of Newcastle also returned thanks, and said that the borough which he had the honour to represent in that assembly was always ready to reciprocate the kindly feeling of her neighbour, Gateshead. Although a broad river rolled between them, and they were presided over by two distinct Chief Magistrates, they were one in feeling and in intent; and he thought that Gateshead must confess the sisterly feeling manifested towards her by Newcastle on a late lamentable occasion. (Loud and protracted applause.) His Worship, responding in kindred vein to some remarks made by Mr. Clephan during the evening, on his fillip to the Committee, said that if his admonition should be the means of getting the members into debt, he would be very happy to assist in helping them out of it. (Applause.)

Glee, "See our oars with feathered spray."

Mr. J. W. Swinburne moved a vote of thanks to the musicians, and to Mr. Shield for the loan of his pianoforte, attributing much of the success of these annual festivals to the kindness of the musical friends of the institution.

In the temporary absence of Mr. Peter Haggie (who was to have seconded the motion), it was seconded by Mr. Garbutt; and Mr. H. F. Hemy responded.

Song (Mr. Hemy), "Maids of Merry England." (Encored.)

Mr. Garbutt now moved a vote of thanks to the President; which was seconded by Mr. James Brown, and carried by acclamation.

Mr. Hutt gratefully replied, and, expressing a hope that he might be allowed to speak of his services in behalf of such institutions elsewhere, alluded to the bill which, in connection with the Society of Arts, he had the good fortune to carry in the last session. Having stated its beneficial character, he went on to add:—The law has, however, I may say, one defect; but that was not of my introduction. Certain busy gentlemen in Manchester, who were very anxious to be doing something—not, I am sure, intending to do wrong, but not knowing how to do right—compelled an alteration in the bill by which Mechanics' Institutions, and all other societies embraced within the purview of the bill, became amenable, under certain circumstances, to the executive government of the country. I object to any such provision. Not that I wish to create—(for I certainly do not share it)—any vulgar prejudice against the Government of the country—that it would indulge in any sinister design against such institutions. I believe the general intentions of the Government of this country, in the days in which we have the happiness to live, are good intentions. (Applause.) But I may be permitted to remark, that I think it is a wise principle, for reasons which I will not presume to explain now, that all local institutions established by the people should be managed by the people irrespectively of the Crown. (Applause.) With this exception, however, I believe the law will be found a good law, if I may presume thus to speak of anything which I had a share in bringing about. I have had the great gratification of receiving from a number of literary and scientific societies in this country expressions of their approba-

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bation — and, indeed, their thanks to me, for the humble part I took in procuring that enactment. — Mr. Hutt proceeded to refer to the distribution of parliamentary papers amongst literary institutions—a subject brought before parliament by the late Mr. Tufnell, from a conviction that the free dissemination of accurate political knowledge was a matter nearly connected with their highest interests—and which subject, in his last illness, the honourable member entreated him (Mr. Hutt) not to lose sight of, but to take up the question, and carry it forward as well as he could. There were many difficulties in the way of success. It was expected, however, that one great step would be gained in the next session of the present parliament — that the documents published by the House of Lords, long withheld from the general public, would be placed upon the same footing as those of the House of Commons; and that being done, a catalogue of all the papers printed for the two houses of parliament would be prepared, with the prices affixed at which they might be purchased. These prices, he thought, might be revised and reduced; and if Mr. Tufnell's intentions should not be fully executed, something very similar would be achieved; in which case, Mechanics' Institutes would have ready access to vast and valuable sources of information, and any particular paper which might be wanted could be easily selected and cheaply and conveniently obtained. (Applause.)

Song (Mr. W. Ferry), "Heaving the Lead."

The national anthem was sung; Mr. P. Haggie called for "three cheers for Mr. Hutt;" the Mayor of Gateshead called for "three cheers for the ladies;" and the company separated with congratulations on the pleasures of the evening.

The voting papers, which had been received at intervals, were subsequently cast up, and gave the following elections as the result:—

President.—Mr. Hutt, M.P.

Vice-Presidents. — The Mayor, Hon. A. Liddell, and Messrs. James Clephan, C. Garbutt, George Hawks, William Kell, R. S. Newall, and Ralph Walters.

Secretaries.—Messrs. James Guthrie and Charles Burney.

Treasurer.—Mr. Joseph Clephan.

Committee.—Messrs. John Blagburn, W. Brason, George Bell, Joseph Carr, Frederick Clark, A. Clifford, C. D. Garbutt, Peter Haggie, William Hedley, E. A. Hedley, Thomas Latimer, W. H. D. Longstaffe, Joseph Maughan, Joseph Reynolds, S. S. Robson, J. W. Swinburne, C. F. Springmann, and R. H. Wilson.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

On Wednesday, Nov. 15, a public meeting of the inhabitants of Gateshead, convened by the Churchwardens, Messrs. F. P. Ionn, George Greene, and Jonathan Robson, was held in the Townhall, "for the purpose of considering the state of the parish church, as damaged by the late explosion, and of determining the question of repairing the present edifice, or of rebuilding it in a more eligible and central situation." There was a large and influential attendance, comprising the Mayor (R. W. Hodgson, Esq.), Rector (Rev. Dr. Davies), and several of the Borough Magistrates, Aldermen, and Councillors.

The Mayor, on the motion of the Rector, was called upon to preside; and Mr. J. W. Swinburne read the notice convening the meeting.

The Mayor then said he would be glad to hear any gentleman who wished to speak on the subject before the meeting.

John Barras, Esq., J.P., rose to move the first resolution — on which, he said, there could be no difference of opinion, whatever might be the various views of the meeting on the question whether the old church should be repaired or a new one built. He would move:—"That this meeting desires to express its deep interest in the present condition of the parish church as damaged by the late explosion, and its desire to concur in such measures as may be deemed most conducive to the great object which the church was originally designed to promote." (Applause.)

The Rector seconded the resolution, and said:—I have been requested by the Churchwardens to bring the state of the church somewhat more fully before the meeting, and lay before you some documents which have a special bearing on the question for the decision of which we are now assembled. Before I enter on this duty, allow me to express the satisfaction I feel at the cordial manner in which you have testified your approval of this resolution. Indeed, I never doubted that the people of this parish, in common with the people of England in general, cherish a deep and sacred regard for the Church as a national institution, whatever differences of opinion there may be with respect to subordinate details and matters of administration. Above all are they attached to its parochial system as the most essential and important part of it. But if I had any previous doubt on the subject, the universal sympathy and interest which have been manifested towards it in this parish, in connection with the recent fearful catastrophe, would have effectually removed any such notion. This feeling of attachment is not, I believe, confined to the direct members of the Church. It is shared, and deeply shared, by persons of other denominations. Indeed, I am inclined to think that many persons were not aware how much they loved the Church until they saw its chief edifice in this parish reduced to its present state of dilapidation. In the course of the last month or six weeks, I have conversed with many persons on the subject, and I have not met with a single individual, to the best of my recollection, who did not express himself as willing to lend a helping hand in repairing or rebuilding the parish church. Much as I rejoice to see the present Mayor occupying his present position as chairman of this meeting, I have much pleasure in stating that his worthy predecessor in office was equally prepared to occupy it. Some persons are apt to think that the Churchwardens have been somewhat tardy in adopting some measure for repairing the sad calamity which has befallen our old church. But I think they acted wisely in giving the public a little respite, and the parish a little time for consideration and reflection. When we awoke, as it were, from the stunning effect of the fearful catastrophe which, in the order of God's providence, befel us, the first thing to be done was obviously to attend to the wants and sufferings of those who were instantaneously rendered homeless, houseless, and destitute; and it is not a little gratifying to reflect that the inhabitants of this parish, as well as our neighbours on the other side of the river and the public generally, rose to the exigency and emergency of the case with a promptitude and alacrity which did honour to human nature. It was a memorable day in the annals of this parish, when a handful of men, who on that occasion met in

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this room, none of them possessed of overwhelming wealth, and many of them persons of very moderate means, before they left their seats put down their names for nearly eleven hundred pounds for the relief of the sufferers. (Applause.) When the pressing and immediate wants of the people had been thus nobly met, and the best arrangements for the conduct of the public service, which the circumstances permitted, had been made, the eyes of all were directed towards the church; and the question which issued from all lips was, What was to be done? The first thing which the Churchwardens, as officially in charge of the fabric of the church, had to do, was to ascertain the amount of the damage it had received; and at my suggestion they called in the aid of Mr. Dobson, in whose character and competence all must have entire confidence. With his usual ability and promotitude, within a few days Mr. Dobson delivered to them the statement I now hold in my hand. In a case of this kind, where so many views and feelings are concerned, there would of necessity be some difference of opinion, and the only plan which the Churchwardens could safely and properly adopt, was to call a public meeting of the parishioners, in order to determine the question of repairing the parish church or rebuilding it in a more central and eligible situation. To adopt the formula of a celebrated statesman, which for the sake of illustration it may be well to use, there are now three courses before us:—to stop where we are, to go back and patch up the old church, or to go on and build a new edifice. The first is manifestly impossible. The second—that of repairing the old church—is that which next demands our attention. In favour of this, there are obviously many circumstances and considerations. There is the fact of its being the *old* church. In the mind of the antiquarian this is a fact full of interest; and although the fabric in its present state is not quite perfect in the eye of such a one, still it is highly interesting and picturesque. To the older residents there are the associations of early childhood; and even to those who are now removed from the parish, there are either, within its walls or in immediate connection with it, the memorials of their ancestors and the sepulchres of their fathers. These are considerations which no wise man would altogether disregard, and no man of right feeling would despise. But these are sentiments rather than reasons—utterances of the heart rather than of the head; and it is, I presume, the latter that ought to bear sway in a practical matter of this kind. With a view of deciding on the expediency of repairing the old church, it will be proper to consider its locality as regards the present population. For many hundred years it occupied undoubtedly a suitable and central position. But the alterations already made and further contemplated in its vicinity, have, in some measure, altered, and will hereafter still more alter, the case. Then we are to look at the actual character and condition of the building. It is almost incurably damp and deeply impregnated with rot. As such, it is of questionable salubrity. Nor ought the question of expense to be overlooked. Already, in the course of sixteen or eighteen years, between two and three thousand pounds have been expended upon it; and adding the sum now required as estimated by Mr. Dobson, amounting to more than twelve hundred pounds, it will have absorbed in the course of twenty-five years fully as much as it would take to build a handsome and commodious new church. These appear to me to be leading considerations as attaching themselves to the important question now to be decided. Next comes the third alternative—that of erecting a new church in what most persons consider a more eligible situation. Now, that such a measure would be desirable, apart from all sentimental feelings and financial considerations, there is, I believe, scarcely any person who is not prepared to acknowledge. Although there are comparatively few present this morning to raise their voices in favour of such a measure, I have little doubt that if it were put to universal suffrage, there would be six to one prepared to support it. But, this fact being considered as assumed, the question of means immediately rises to the view. Let us then look this question fully and fairly in the face. The people of Gateshead, I believe, are not accustomed to be terrified by trifles, when they have an important object in view. If they are not deterred by an outlay of nearly forty thousand pounds for the promotion of improvements in the immediate vicinity of the church, to be raised exclusively among themselves, there is surely nothing very formidable in a tenth of that sum, and probably not half of it to be drawn from their own resources. In connection with this view of the question, I am reminded of an exclamation of a celebrated statesman. When an Opposition member, in reference to the expenses of the war, put what he considered the crushing and unanswerable question, "Where are we to get the means to carry out such a war?" Lord Chatham, with a sarcastic glance, turned round and exclaimed—

"Gentle shepherd, tell me where?"

Although the "shepherd" is not prepared, on this occasion, exactly to tell where the means for building a new church are to be obtained, he will just proceed to state a few facts. The expense of a new church, as estimated in a letter of Mr. Dobson's, which I hold in my hand, recommending this measure, is, in round numbers, £5,000. To meet this demand, the Bishop of Durham, with his usual munificence, has offered, in case the church is rebuilt, (which his lordship declares, in the letter I hold in my hand, he would greatly prefer,) the noble sum of £600, or half that sum if the plan of repairing the old church is adopted, (Applause.) Mr. Ellison, immediately after the calamity, without any solicitation, promised £100 to the fund to be raised in behalf of the church. (Applause.) The Duke of Cleveland, though he declares, in a letter I received two days ago from His Grace, that he has no connection by property or otherwise with Gateshead, yet, under the circumstances, generously subscribes £100 to the restoration of the church. (Applause.) Our benevolent and respected neighbour, Lord Ravensworth, without pledging himself to any particular sum, promises to give my application "the most favourable consideration." Another gentleman, whom I know, will give £100 in case a new church is built. Judging from what was received in aid of the erection of St. Cuthbert's church, we may calculate at least on £600 from the different societies and public bodies. Thus, there is at once secured not less than £1,500, before the resident inhabitants have been called upon for a single farthing. If the parish itself raises a similar sum of £1,500, I think, from the feeling that has been expressed to me by clergyman of the neighbourhood and others, that for the remaning £2,000 we may safely cast ourselves on the sympathy

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of the public in general. If the plan of the new church should be adopted, it is a question which has been often put, What is to be done with the old church? Without at this moment entering into any detailed view of the question, I think there is no doubt that the old tower would at least be left for the gratification of our friends of the Antiquarian Society—who, in all probability, would put a clock in it for the benefit of the public. These are matters, however, for future consideration, and need not now be discussed. I have now, in compliance with the request of the Churchwardens, endeavoured, as briefly as I could, to bring the whole question before you—not as a rash and inconsiderate partisan of either scheme, but with the single desire of doing what is most conclusive to the real and permanent good of this parish. It is, in fact, not a personal, but a public, a parochial question—a question, not of the feelings and interests of to-day, but of the children and grandchildren of many of those whom I am now addressing. To myself, individually, I may be permitted to say, that it is a matter of little importance, except as it may involve me in a greater or less amount of temporary anxieties and labour, which plan is adopted. If I simply consulted my own ease and present interest, I should certainly recommend the repair of the old church; and a very moderate sum laid out upon it will, in all probability, render it fit to outlive my connection with it. But as a Christian and a Christian minister, I feel bound to consult the permanent spiritual interests of a parish with which we are connected, and with which many of our best feelings are identified. During the fourteen years that I have been officially connected with it, I have been permitted, in the good providence of God, to take an originating part in several schemes for its benefit, both ecclesiastical and educational; and I feel very thankful in being enabled to say that not one of those plans failed in its accomplishment, nor, I trust, altogether of its object. The erection of a new parish church, however, is a different thing, and, if undertaken at all, must be undertaken, and in some considerable measure accomplished, by the parish itself. I am willing to acknowledge that I should rejoice in seeing such an object achieved. Under the influence of this feeling, I am disposed to exclaim, in the well-known and slightly adapted language of an ancient poet—

Extremum hunc, Gatesida, mihi concede laborem.

And if this work, undertaken, as I trust it may be with a single eye to the glory of God and the highest interests of the people of this parish—if this work is carried into execution, I shall be ready to say, in the language of the same poet—

Discedam, explebo numerum reddarque tenebris,

Both of which lines, for the benefit of those not initiated into the mysteries of the ancient tongue, I will interpret:—"This last task being achieved, my work as a church and school builder in this parish—(and another of these last erections will, I hope, within a few weeks be begun)—will, in all likelihood, have been performed, and I shall be glad to retire into the shade." (Applause.)

The following letter to the Rector from Mr. Dobson was read to the meeting:—

Newcastle, November 15, 1854.

GENTLEMEN,—Agreeably with your request, I have, since drawing up my report of the expense of restoring St. Mary's church, considered the propriety of spending so large a sum as £1,255 upon a building which of late years has been costly in keeping in repair, and which, it is admitted, has for some time been inadequate to the requirements of the population of the borough. Now as your population is rapidly on the increase, more church accommodation must before long be provided; and as I understand a site can at present be obtained, more eligibly situated, I have no hesitation in recommending your having a new edifice, providing you think the sum of about £3,500, in addition to £1,255 required for repairs, could be conveniently raised, making a total sum of about £5,000. With this amount, and the advantage of having the old materials, a neat and commodious church could be erected, capable of accommodating about 1,400 hearers.

Should you determine upon having a new church, I would strongly recommend your retaining the chancel of the old church as an additional school room, which, with the vestry, &c., would enable you to classify the children; and no doubt additional school room in this locality is much required.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
To Messrs Ionn, Greene, and Robson, Churchwardens. JOHN DOBSON.

The motion was put and carried; and no one rising to move another, the MAYOR was requested to read a resolution which had been framed prior to the meeting, that any gentleman present, who thought proper, might move its adoption, viz.:—"That the Churchwardens are to be commended for appealing to the inhabitants to decide the question whether the present church shall be repaired, or a new church erected; and, taking into consideration the altered circumstances of the town, which have rendered a once appropriate site, now peculiarly inappropriate, and that the cost of repairing the ruined fabric would bear a large proportion to the cost of erecting a new one, this meeting is of opinion that the present opportunity should be embraced of rebuilding the parish church in a more suitable locality."

The resolution was not moved.

Mr. J. A. HYMERS said, his sympathies were with the old church, invested as it was with many old associations; and he should be sorry to see it removed. There would be no difficulty in raising the necessary funds to restore the ancient edifice. With a statement before them of what it would cost to repair the church, and what the chancel, they would know what to do. There were already five or six hundred pounds subscribed.

The RECTOR said, they could hardly calculate positively upon that amount, so far as they had gone, for repairs. The Bishop would give £300 if the church was merely restored—£250 for the church and £50 for the chancel. He could say nothing positively as to the rest.

Mr. HYMERS said he was quite aware how the matter stood. There would be no difficulty in raising the requisite funds, and he should like to know the particulars of the estimate for the restoration.

Mr. DOBSON, being called upon by the Mayor, stated that he had completely inspected the structure, and estimated the cost of repairs to be:—

Chancel (including stained windows)	£168	3	1
Nave and aisles	328	13	6
Tower (including clock)	56	1	0
Vestry	22	16	4
Beadle's house	36	3	8
School	62	7	7
Exterior	77	2	0
Making a total of	£751	7	2

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This was his estimate for restoring the edifice to the state in which it was prior to the explosion. He had also estimated the cost of restoring it to its primitive condition. At the time of the explosion, the windows had wooden mullions and common sashes. To restore the windows, chancel, &c., as they originally existed, and to provide an air-vent, &c., to banish and prevent the dry rot, would cost in addition :—

Windows	£182	4	8
Chancel	104	15	7
Air-vent, new flooring, &c.	217	10	3
	£504	10	6

The total cost would thus be £1,255 17s. 8d. The structure was not all of the same antiquity. The chancel was older than the church, and dated back as far as the year 1220. Its windows had originally been very beautiful. The body of the edifice was of the curious transition era between the Early English and the Decorated.

Mr. J. A. Hymers moved : — "That nearly £500 having been already subscribed for the purpose of restoring the old church, additional subscriptions be entered into immediately for so desirable an object." From what they had seen stated in the local newspapers, and what had been reported to the meeting by the worthy Rector, there could not be the slightest doubt that the £500 already subscribed would soon be increased to the necessary amount.

The Rector, after some explanatory remarks, said he had no doubt at all that the money could be readily raised for repairs :—the real question was, which was the most desirable course to adopt.

Mr. Hymers thought it exceedingly desirable that the old establishment should be kept up, and would therefore adhere to his motion.

Mr. John Greene seconded the motion, which was in entire accordance with his own sentiments. He was bound by old associations and attachments to the parish church of St. Mary. Whether they were of the head or of the heart, he could not say; but they existed, and he was not disposed to set aside the old church for a new one. Mr. Greene referred to the new churches which had been called into existence in Gateshead within the last quarter of a century—to the non-existence of a church in the populous eastern district of the borough — and to other circumstances, opposed, in his opinion, to the removal of the parish-church to the western side of the parish. Whilst, however, he seconded the motion of Mr. Hymers, he hoped he would so extend it as to comprise the restorations included in Mr. Dobson's supplementary estimate.

Mr. Hymers having made the suggested addition to his motion, it was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. F. P. Ionn then moved : — "That the thanks of the parishioners are due to the Lord Bishop of this diocese, the Duke of Cleveland, Lord Ravensworth, Cuthbert Ellison, Esq., and other gentlemen, for their prompt and characteristic offer liberally to assist them either in repairing or rebuilding the church as might be thought most advisable; and that the Rector be requested to convey to them this expression of their gratitude, and a copy of the resolutions of this meeting."

Seconded by Mr. George Greene, and carried by acclamation.

George Hawks, Esq., J.P., moved a vote of thanks to the Mayor, and the proceedings terminated.

The Peer Temporal and the Peer Spiritual. The Duke of Cleveland, when the plight of our parish church was made known to him, wrote the following handsome reply :—

Raby Castle, November 12, 1854.

Dear Sir,—I was favoured with your letter, in which you state that the parish church at Gateshead was reduced to a ruin by the late explosion. I was aware of the dreadful explosion, and the awful calamity caused thereby; but I was not aware of the great damage done to the parish church. I have no connection, as you are aware, public or private, with the town of Gateshead; nor have I any property whatever either in the town or neighbourhood. I shall be happy, however, under the circumstances, to give you a donation of £100 towards the restoration of the church.

I am, Sir, your obedient, humble Servant.

Rev. Dr. Davies. Cleveland.

The Bishop of Durham also made a liberal response to the appeal which the calamity conveyed to him as lord of the diocese. His lordship wrote :—

I need hardly say that I greatly prefer rebuilding the church to repairing it. But, whether the one plan or the other be adopted, I shall hope that in neither case would the rebuilding or repairing the chancel fall upon yourself. It is very reasonable that the Rector should furnish repairs when rendered necessary by a lapse of time; but it appears to me that it would be very hard to expect a chancel to be rebuilt, or even repaired, under the necessity incurred by such an unexpected and extensive calamity. I purpose, therefore to give £600 towards rebuilding and removing the church: — *i. e.*, £500 for the church and £100 for the chancel.

Gateshead Dispensary Building Fund. — Mr. Kimpster continues gradually to increase the Building Fund of our best charity, and has this week received the following subscriptions :—

Messrs. J. & H. Harrison's Workmen	£1	8	0
Mr. Edward Bruce's Workmen	1	6	6
Mr. Forster Walker's Workmen	1	0	0
Addison Potter, Esq., Newcastle	2	2	0
N. G. Lambert, Esq., Newcastle	2	2	0
Mr. Edward Bruce	1	1	0
Mr. Thomas Newton	1	1	0
Mr. Thomas Bulcraig	1	0	0

The Late Explosion. — The Newcastle inquest on the bodies of the sufferers by the calamity on the 6th of October was brought to a close on Monday, the 13th of November, when the Jury agreed to the following verdict :—"We find that the deceased, Mary Kerss and others, died from the effects of an explosion which took place on Friday morning, October 6th, in Bertram's warehouse, situate in Hillgate, Gateshead; that the explosion resulted from a fire which originated in Wilson's worsted manufactory; but we have no direct evidence as to the immediate cause of the explosion, or of the origin of the fire."

GATESHEAD FELL BALL.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC ROOMS.

THE ANNUAL BALL will be held at the Public Rooms, Gateshead Low Fell, on THURSDAY, the 4th January, 1855. Music at half-past 8 o'clock.

Tickets may be had of the Stewards and Secretaries :—Ladies', 5s. : Gentlemen's, 6s. 6d. Refreshments included.

STEWARDS.

The Mayor of Gateshead.	Robert Davis, Esq.
George Hawks, Esq.	Edmund Graham, Jun., Esq.
M. S. Dodds, Esq.	Daniel Robson, Jun., Esq.

FREDERICK WELFORD, } Hon. Secs.
GEORGE GREENE, Jun. }

Leader and Conductor of the Orchestra, Mr. Matthew Liddell.—Nov. 30, 1854.

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THE GATESHEAD TOWN COUNCIL.

†R. W. HODGSON, Mayor.

ALDERMEN.		
Haggie, David	†Aspdin, William	Hymers, J. A.
†Hawks, George	†Brinton, George	Ionn, F. P.
Lister, John	†Cook, William	†Patterson, G.
†Pearson, C. J.	†Crawshay, George	†Prockter, R. J.
†Robson, Joseph	†Gray, Alex. Geo.	Skelton, John
†Smith, James	Haggie, Peter	†Welford, T.
COUNCILLORS	†Hewitt, James	Wilson, James
†Allhusen, Chris.	Hunter, George	†Woolston, John

☞ Those marked (†) were present.

TOWNHALL, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22.—The Council met by adjournment at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

The minutes having been read, Mr. Ald. HAWKS suggested the addition of Mr. Crawshay to the Hillgate Committee, it being his wish to be of service in connection with the proposed improvements.—Moved by Mr. A. G. GRAY, seconded by Mr. Ald. SMITH, and adopted.

Mr. A. G. GRAY drew attention to the scheme of "Tyne Coal Dues Redemption," advertised in the local papers, and which, on the previous day, he had brought under the consideration of the Tyne Improvement Commissioners, (as elsewhere reported). The subject, he said, was one of vital importance to Gateshead, and to the trade of the whole district. The proposed plan purported to be one of "redemption," but was, in fact, simply one of transfer. Mr. Gray stated to the Council how the coal-due at present stood—the Corporation of Newcastle receiving 5-8ths of it, and the River Commissioners 3-8ths; and reported what had passed on the subject at the meeting of the Commissioners. The Parliamentary Committee should take up the question, with a view to the protection of the interests of Gateshead.

After a brief conversation, it was understood that the suggestion would be attended to in due time.

The TOWN CLERK read replies from the Town Clerk of Tynemouth (Mr. Lietch), and the Deputy Clerk of the Peace for the county of Durham (Mr. Tiplady), intimating that there were no charges against Gateshead for the services of the Tynemouth police and the Durham county-constables in connection with the late fire and explosion. The MAYOR observed, that the hearty thanks of the Council were due to the Tynemouth and Durham-county authorities; and, on the motion of Mr. Ald. ROBSON, seconded by Mr. BRINTON, it was resolved that those thanks be conveyed to them by the Town Clerk through Mr. Lietch and Mr. Tiplady.

The TOWN CLERK stated that, at the request of the Mayor, he had written to the proper quarter, explaining why it was that Gateshead had not, yet, taken any steps in furtherance of the Patriotic Fund, and had received the following reply from Capt. Fishbourne:—

Westminster, November 21, 1854.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, notifying to me that the Mayor of Gateshead had determined, in consequence of the recent calamity, to defer calling upon the benevolent public to assist in the creation of the Patriotic Fund.

I beg to say, on behalf of myself and colleague, that we entirely concur in the wisdom of the course adopted.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
H. GARDNER FISHBOURNE, Hon. Secretary.

G. J. Kenmir, Esq.

The MAYOR said, he would be happy to have the advice of the Council as to the time of holding a public meeting to set on foot a subscription.

The result of a conversation was the fixing of Tuesday, the 19th of December, as the day on which the meeting should be held. The MAYOR expressed a hope that gentlemen would show their patriotism and humanity by attending the meeting, and contributing liberally to the Patriotic Fund. Mr. CRAWSHAY supported the Mayor's appeal, and said he trusted that measures would be taken to make the subscription more general than in the case of the late explosion.

The TOWN CLERK read a memorial, signed, he said, by about 150 persons, calling attention to a nuisance created by a deposit of refuse at the Saltmeadows from the washing machine of Messrs. Aspdin, Ord, & Co., on a public footpath, and to the wheeling of clay along the path, so that it was ankle-deep in mud. The memorial also made allusion to Mr. Aspdin's position as a member of the Council.

Mr. A. G. GRAY said, he might be allowed to remark, as to the Saltmeadows, that it was not sufficiently understood that this property was held by the Corporation of Newcastle under lease from the Bishop of Durham. The Corporation granted what were called improving leases—leases for 75 years, under which the sub-lessees were bound to erect substantial buildings on the ground — a covenant which was broken, to the detriment of the public interests.

Mr. ASPDIN said, he had never before heard a whisper of complaint about the alleged nuisance. There was no offensive refuse from the works, and no ground for the complaint.

Mr. Ald. HAWKS also said he had never before heard any complaint. As for a road, there was none—there only ought to be. Some improvement was much needed.

Other gentlemen having spoken as to the necessity of improvement, and the difficulty of effecting it, the road being simply an occupation one, some further remarks were made about the leases, and Mr. HAWKS inquired who were the holders of the 75 years' leases—the firm of which he was a partner held no such lease.

The memorial was referred to the Public Health Committee.

The MAYOR presented a report from the Watch Committee, recommending that, for services in connection with the late fire and explosion, there should be awarded the following remuneration:—To Mr. Schorey, the Gateshead superintendent, £5 5s.; and to each police-constable £1, each sub-inspector 27s., and each inspector 37s. To Mr. Buglass, the South Shields superintendent, £4. To the members of the neighbouring forces who had rendered assistance:—Constables, 4s. 6d. per day; inspectors and sergeants, 6s.; superintendents, 10s. To the Whittle Dean turncock, 20s. Clothing, &c., to be made good, and expenses reimbursed.

The proposed remuneration, it appeared, was generally considered, out of Gateshead, to be handsome; and on the motion of Mr. Ald. SMITH, seconded by Mr. HEWITT, the report was confirmed.

The TOWN CLERK read a report from the Baths and Laundries Committee, stating that the Surveyor had been instructed to have the damage done to the building by the late explosion repaired; that the money borrowed for the erection of the building was exhausted; and that £300 should be taken from the Borough Fund to meet the current expenses for the completion of the building.

In reply to Mr. COOK, the MAYOR expressed his belief that the liability fell upon the contractor to repair the damage sustained by the explosion, and

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the Committee had no intention that he should be absolved.

In further reply to Mr. Cook, it was stated that, including the sum of £300 named in the report, about £600 would be required for the completion of the building.

Mr. Cook remarked, that the £3,500 borrowed money was gone, and £600 more would make £4,100. There would also be extras to come. Thus, a building which was to have been completed for £3,000, would cost between £4,000 and £5,000.

A conversation ensued, in which the Mayor, Mr. Hewitt, Mr. Brinton, Mr. Crawshay, and Mr. Cook took part. It was explained, on the part of the Baths and Laundries Committee, that there had been no excess of expenditure. After the provisional estimate of £3,000 was made, and before contracts were entered into, there was considerable rise in the price of labour and materials. There was also, besides the cost of the building, £500 for the site. It was not, therefore, because of any unlooked-for expenditure that assistance was required from the Borough Fund, but simply for the reason that too small a sum was borrowed.

Mr. Cook expressed a hope that the money taken from the Borough Fund would not be lost sight of in the accounts, but would appear as part of the cost of the Baths and Laundries, so that it might be seen and known whether the establishment was self-supporting or the contrary.

Mr. Crawshay concurred with Mr. Cook, and it was understood that the accounts would give the suggested information.

Mr. Hawks moved the adoption of the report. Seconded by Mr. Allhusen, and carried.

Mr. Ald. Hawks presented a report from the Improvement Committee, containing the following statements and recommendations:—

1. Messrs. Hew Singers & Co. were willing to sell their property in Hillgate, required for the new quay and improvements:—the price to be left to the decision of two disinterested parties — one appointed by the Corporation and one by Messrs. Singers; and, if necessary, an umpire to be called in by the arbitrators. The Committee recommended the acceptance of the offer.

2. Messrs. John Barras, George Bell, William Hopper, and Henry Dunn, offered to sell their property in Hillgate and Churchwalk, at prices to be fixed by arbitration. Acceptance of offers recommended.

3. Mr. Thomas Richardson offered to sell his property for £500, less £56 received from the insurance company, which he was willing to pay over to the Corporation, if they would take the premises forthwith, and pay him 5 per cent. per annum. Recommended that the offer be accepted, if a subcommittee should report the property to be worth the money. Also, that the Committee be authorized to purchase the property of Mr. Charles Jess in Churchwalk.

4. Mr. Joseph Woolston's property to be taken subject to certain conditions stated in the report.

5. The Committee had had an interview with two banking firms, who were each willing to advance £5,000, at market interest, for two years, on the personal security of a few members of the Corporation. Recommended, that members who were willing to incur the responsibility be empowered to enter into the required security, and be indemnified by bond from loss The money so obtained to be employed in the purchase of freehold property, the deeds of which might be kept by the members who gave security; and the first payment obtained on the credit of the undertaking from the Government, or any other source, to be applied in liquidation of the loans from the bankers.

The report having been received, its clauses were considered *seriatim*. Mr. Cook eulogized the spirit in which Messrs. Singers had met the Committee; and Mr. Alderman Pearson, being asked as to Mr. Richardson's property, said the price, he thought, was reasonable. In reply to Mr. Procter, it was stated that this and other property, when purchased, would be pulled down:—the Corporation could not, without setting a bad example, put any of it into repair, and become the landlords of tenement houses. In consequence of remarks made by Mr. Crawshay, it was resolved that it be thrown open to any gentleman to give security to the bankers for loans. Mr. Gray objected to the proposed arrangement. He thought the property purchased should not be in private hands. The money should be raised by debenture. It could be raised without pledging the presonal security of any gentleman.—After much more conversation, the report was adopted; and Messrs. Cook, Pearson, Brinton, and Woolston were appointed to be the subcommittee to view the property of Mr. Richardson, and decide upon his offer.

Mr. Robert Wallace, whom Mr. Allhusen pronounced to be unequalled as a valuer, was appointed to be the arbitrator of the Corporation.

The Town Clerk stated that he had that day received letters in relation to the Hillgate property, from Mr. Davidson and others, which would be laid before the Improvement Committee.

Other business was transacted, and the meeting was adjourned to Wednesday, the 13th of December.

The subcommittee repaired to Hillgate immediately after the meeting, and viewed the property. The proposed purchases will enable the Corporation to make a clear breach from Churchwalk to the Tyne.

Gateshead Dispensary.—The Building Committee met on Thursday, Nov. 23, (John Greene, Esq., in the chair). It appeared that Mr. John Kimpster and Mr. Alderman Smith had collected, in the aggregate, subscriptions amounting to £805 17s. 4d., nearly the whole of which had been paid over to the Treasurer. It is desirable, for the interests of the charity, that subscriptions not yet paid should be handed in at once, as the accounts must be made up ere long, preparatory to a presentation of a report to the governors and friends of the institution. Since the date of our last number, the following new subscriptions have been received:—

Mr. Philip Smith's Workmen	£0	15	0
Workmen in the *Observer* Office	0	12	0
Mr. F. Sanderson's Workmen	0	5	6
Railway Station Staff, Gateshead	0	9	6
Mr H. Atkin, York	1	1	0
Messrs. John Carr & Co.	1	1	0

Gateshead Mechanics' Institute.—At the first meeting of the new committee, held on Wednesday evening, Nov. 22, and numerously attended, (J. W. Swinburne, Esq., in the chair,) fifteen members were admitted into the society. The following books were ordered:—Volume 2 of Warren's Ten Thousand a-Year; the Ferns of Great Britain, parts 1 to 4; Burke's Works, vol. i.; Chambers's Sanitary Economy; (How to furnish a house and make it a house); Knight's Half Hours of English History; and Dr. Andrew Combe's Preservation of Health. It was fixed to hold the meeting of the committee on the last

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Thursday in each month. The following sub-committees were elected :—Lecture Committee :—Messrs. James Clephan, W. H. Longstaffe, E. A. Hedley, C. D. Garbutt, and J. A. Latimer. House and Newspaper Committee :—Messrs. William Hedley, R. H. Wilson, John Blagburn, S. S. Robson, and A. Clifford. Ordered, that, for the convenience of readers, a stand be procured for the newsroom on which to place a copy of the *Times* newspaper. It was unanimously resolved that a subcommittee be appointed to consider the expediency of expending the sum of money now in the bank in the purchase of standard works or otherwise for the benefit of the members; also to inquire into a proposal to make use of the hall of the building for the purposes of a library, and to convert the present library into a newsroom. The following members to form such committee :—Messrs. William Kell, C. Garbutt, James Clephan, J. W. Swinburne, W. Hedley, Joseph Carr, and S. S. Robson; together with the Treasurer and Secretaries; and to report at a future meeting. Other business was transacted.

GATESHEAD POOR-LAW UNION.

The Guardians met on Tuesday, the 28th Nov., when there were present :—The Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and Messrs. Anderson, Brinton, Cook, Greene, Makepeace, and Smith.

The Clerk read the minutes, and reported that the following monies were due from parishes and places in the union :—

Gateshead.....	£750	0	0	Stella	£ 30	0	0
Heworth	110	0	0	Whickham	309	10	0
Crawcrook ...	27	10	0	Winlaton	65	0	0

(Heworth, we believe, paid up her arrears on the morning of the meeting.)—The Treasurer had in hand £1,334 1s. 2d.; the cheques to be issued amounted to £370; surplus, £964 1s. 2d. The Clerk stated that he had received a letter from Messrs. Kell & Apedaile, on the part of Mr. R. Counsellor, accepting the sum of £100 as payment in full; and he had included this item among the cheques now before the meeting. He had also received a letter from Mr. Brewis, as solicitor for Mr. F. S. Brown, requiring payment of £11 for services rendered during the epidemic of 1853; and likewise one from Mr. R. Davis, inviting a reconsideration of his case.

The two letters having been read, Mr. Brinton moved, as to Mr. Brown's, that if Mr. Brewis should proceed in the county court, as was intimated, the case of the Board be defended. Seconded by Mr. Cook, and agreed to.

Mr. Ald. Robson moved, as to Mr. Davis's letter, that £40, the amount awarded by the Board, be tendered to that gentleman, as payment in full. After some discussion, Mr. John Greene seconded the motion, and it was carried.

The returns laid upon the table showed that, at the commencement of the preceding fortnight there were 169 paupers in the workhouse, and at its close 185. In outdoor relief there had been administered £157 16s. 8d. in the first week, and £136 9s. 10d. in the second week. The recipients were in number :—

	First Week.	Second.
Ablebodied adults	684	679
Not ablebodied	517	506
Children under 16	1074	1069
Total.....	2275	2254

Some other business having been transacted, the Board proceeded to the relief of the poor.

GATESHEAD UNION.
CONTRACTS FOR PROVISIONS, &c.

THE Board of Guardians of this Union hereby give Notice, that at their Meeting to be held in the Union Workhouse, Gateshead, on Tuesday, the 12th of December, 1854, they will receive TENDERS for supplying the Union with PROVISIONS, to be delivered at the Gateshead Union Workhouse, for Three Months, commencing on the 25th inst.

PROVISIONS.

Bread, made of the best Seconds Flour, in Loaves or Buns, as may be required, at per 4lb.
Bread, made of good Maslin Flour, sweet and sound, in Loaves and Buns, at per 4lb.
Bhst Fine Flour, per Sack of 20st.
Best Scotch Oatmeal, per do.
Split Peas and Pot Barley, per cwt.
Raw Sugar, per cwt.
Soap, per ditto.
Soda, per ditto.
Salt, per cwt.
Candles (Dips), per doz. lb.
Good Congou Tea, per lb.
Roasted Coffee, per ditto.
Black Peper, per ditto.
Treacle, per stone.
Butcher Meat :—To consist of Rounds and Flanks, of best Ox and Heifer Beef, Houghs full cut, and Sloats without the Shank, and best Wether Mutton, in Legs and Loins, per stone. The weekly demand about 18 stones.

Tenders addressed to the Clerk, at the Gateshead Union Workhouse, will be received until One o'clock on Tuesday, the 12th inst.

Printed Forms of Tenders for Provisions may be had on application at the Office, West-street, and none other will be received.

The Bread and Groceries to be tendered by samples.

Each Party whose Tender may be accepted, must be prepared (if required) to give Security for the fulfilment of the Contract.

By Order of the Board of Guardians,
J. W. SWINBURNE, Clerk to the Union.
Gateshead Union Office, December 1, 1854.

QUEEN'S HEAD HOTEL, GATESHEAD.

On Wednesday, Nov. 29, the largest and most influential company that ever sat down to table in any room in Gateshead, was witnessed in the hall of the "Queen's Head Hotel," in High-street, recently rebuilt by Mr. John Davidson, and now occupied by Miss Murray, formerly of the Half Moon inn.

Since it was rebuilt, the Queen's Head, aspiring to the dignity of an "hotel," has ceased to be a mere "inn." Even an inn, however, (much more an hotel,) was unknown in Gateshead in former times. Our forefathers had only alehouses. In Whitehead's directory of 1782, there is but one "innkeeper" enrolled in the whole borough—namely, Mr. Dungett, of the George. All other hosts were but "publicans." Still, the Half Moon must have been a house of more consequence than the George; for it, and it alone, is named by Mr. Whitehead as a house-of-call for carriers. Its landlord was then Mr. Birch, the ex-comedian, who, having espoused Miss Sissons, the daughter of his predecessor, was enabled to forsake the Stage for the Bar.

So comparatively insignificant were the Gateshead publicans in those days, that soldiers were not billeted on them; and when, in 1787, one John Allen, of the First (or King's) Dragoon Guards, was quartered on Cornelius Dimpsey, of the Fox and Lamb, "publican and joiner," at the head of Pipewellgate, he (in common, we believe, with several others,) denied his liability, and, resisting, was convicted by the justices

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(Messrs. Ellison, Peareth, and Thorp), and suffered distraint. The conviction, being carried into the Court of Queen's Bench, was quashed in 1788.

The whole of the "people in trade, &c., in Gateshead," in Mr. Whitehead's time, did not number 150, (which is little more than the present number of licensed victuallers in the borough). It is also remarkable, as an indication of the narrow limits of the town in the closing quarter of the last century, that the directory contains the names of so very few streets—not more than half-a-dozen altogether. There is a current joke, that when Gateshead "High-street" was once named in the hearing of the "oldest inhabitant" of Newcastle, he expressed surprise, remarking that he had never known we had a "High-street." There is certainly no such street named by Mr. Whitehead. The whole of his references to localities are given in the following table, with the number of persons carrying on "trade, &c.," in each one of them respectively, viz. :—

Battle-bank (which then included all the main street from Half Moon-lane to the bridge)	63
Pipewellgate	25
Hillgate	10
Oakwellgate	5
South Shore	6
Near Fellon Hole, South Shore	1
East End of Ropewalk	1
High Church-chair	2
Low Church-chair	3
Near Church-gate	1
South End of Tyne Bridge	3
Above the Royal Oak (in Battle-bank)	1
Above the Duke of Cumberland (ditto)	1
Above the Tolbooth (which stood in the middle of the street, below Oakwellgate-chair)	8
Below the Tolbooth	8
Near the Tolbooth	4
Above the Old Chapel (Trinity)	1
Below the Old Chapel	1
Near the Old Chapel	1
Gateshead, Head of	1
Total	146

37 of the 146, or one-fourth of the whole "persons carrying on trade in Gateshead," were publicans.

The Rev. R. Thorp, the rector, and John Bowman, the parish-clerk, lived in Oakwellgate. One of the curates, Mr. Ferier, lived "near the church gate;" and the other, Mr. James Falcon, who was also schoolmaster, dwelt in "Hilgate." There was but one "medical professor" in the parish (James Clogan); and he lived in Pipewellgate. In the whole directory, there were but four and twenty persons who resided above the Half Moon-lane. "Battle-bank" was the residence, it will be observed, of nearly one-half of the trading community; and of this moiety we detect but one—"John Green, merchant"—whose name survives to our own day. The Mr. John Green of 1782 was grandfather of the present gentleman of that name, and originally commenced business in Pipewellgate. The Queen's Head, which has led back our thoughts to the eighteenth century, was occupied in 1782 by Mr. Robert Smith. The Black Bull—(now, also, one of our principal inns)—was not at that time in existence. In 1785, however, we have "The Butcher and Bull;" the "Butcher" disappears in 1790, and his old comrade is a "Red Bull;" subsequently, we know not when, the "Red Bull" and the "Royal Oak" suffered some revolution, giving birth to the present "Black Bull."

On the rebuilding of the Queen's Head, the friends of the enterprising landlady, Miss Murray, resolved to give her a

WELCOME DINNER.

The entertainment was to have come off in the long room (the largest room in Gateshead), on the 18th of October; but after that arrangement was made, the fearful explosion occurred, destroying a vast amount of property and many valuable lives, Mr. Davidson's steam mill perishing in the wreck, and one of his sons, a young gentleman of much promise, being one of the number who fell victims in the calamity. The intention as to the dinner was therefore set aside for a time; and it was not until Wednesday, the 29th of November, that it was carried into effect.

The readiness with which tickets were taken, after they were placed on sale at 20s. each, gave early assurance that no common gathering would be the result; and when the evening came, 150 gentlemen sat down to table.

George Hawks, Esq., J.P., filled the chair. On his right sat the Borough Member, William Hutt, Esq., of Gibside; the Chairman of the River Commissioners, Joseph Cowen, Esq., of Blaydon Burn; William Anderson, Esq., of the firm of Monkhouse & Anderson; Lieut. Hawks, of the South Durham Militia; Capts. Reed and Adamson, of the Northumberland Militia; H. W. Fenwick, Esq., &c. On the left of the chair, the Mayor of Newcastle, Isaac Lowthian Bell, Esq., of Washington; John Barras, Esq., J.P., of Farnacres; Aldermen Lister and Smith; G. J. Kenmir, Esq., Town Clerk; Councillor Aspdin; Thomas Hewett, Esq., &c.

Mr. Ald. Robson and Francis Bennett, Esq., occupied the vice-chairs. Mr. Robson was supported by Messrs. R. Fletcher, Daniel Robson, J. W. Swinburne, Ralph Wylam, John Angus, and John Sowerby; and Mr. Bennett by Messrs. John Potts, William Wylam, John Forster, T. A. Cook, T. C. Angus, and John Walker. There were also present—the Chairman of the Gateshead Poor Law Union (Mr. C. Garbutt, of Dunston Lodge); Alderman Pearson, of Bensham Tower; and Councillors Hewitt, Ionn, and Brinton. The company, indeed, was such as, in numbers and influence, has seldom been surpassed on the Tyne—and never, certainly, on the occasion of a "Welcome Dinner." The Mayor of Gateshead (R. W. Hodgson, Esq., of North Dene,) was only prevented from being present by his unavoidable detention in London on important business.

After the removal of the cloth, the royal toasts were drunk with loyal fervour; the toast of the "Army and Navy" was received with significant and protracted cheering; and the toast of the evening, "The health of Miss Murray, with success and prosperity to the Queen's Head Hotel," was drunk with three times three and several cheers more.

Industrial Supper at the Queen's Head Hotel.—On Nov. 30th, upwards of 130 of the officers and men employed in the manufactories and other establishments of Gateshead, sat down to supper in the long room of the Queen's Head, according to annual custom, and spent a social and agreeable night. Toasts, songs, and speeches occupied the hours; and with an order and moderation not surpassed at the dinner of the previous evening, did this respectable company conduct their proceedings. The health of the hostess was drunk with loud cheers.

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The room was decorated as on the occasion of the Welcome Dinner.

CONCERT AT THE QUEEN'S HEAD. — Friday evening, December 1, Madame Nedden and Herr Clausthal inaugurated the hall of the Queen's Hotel, Gateshead, as a concert room, by giving a vocal entertainment for the benefit of the surviving sufferers by the late fire and explosion, under the patronage of the Worshipful the Mayor (R. W. Hodgson, Esq.)

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY:—BUILDING FUND.—Mr. John Kimpster has received the following additions to the fund:—

Workmen of Joseph Price & Co.	£5	0	0
Workmen at Gateshead Brewery	1	15	0
Mr. W. J. Hutchinson	0	10	0
A Friend	0	10	0

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, GATESHEAD.—A meeting of the Rector, Churchwardens, and Four-and-Twenty, was held on Nov. 28th, in the National School, to receive a letter from the Bishop of Durham, offering to increase his subscription to £800, if a new church were built. The general feeling was that the question of New or Old Church could not be reopened, after the unanimous vote of the public meeting; and therefore, on the motion of the Mayor (R. W. Hodgson, Esq.), who is favourable to the erection of a new church, seconded by Mr. Ralph Wyfam, it was resolved:—"The Rector having laid before the meeting a letter of the Lord Bishop of Durham, liberally offering the sum of £800 for the purpose of a new church and cemetery in this parish, it is resolved, that the most cordial thanks of this meeting and of the whole parish be given to his lordship for his munificent proposal. As, however, it was decided at a public meeting of the parishioners that the present fabric be repaired in preference to the erection of a new church, the meeting regrets that, under existing circumstances, it does not appear to be possible to take advantage of his lordship's most handsome donation, nor of the liberal aid offered by other gentlemen for the accomplishment of the same object." It was stated by the Rector, during the meeting, that the Duke of Cleveland had consented to the application of his £100 to the repairs of the church. Mr. Harle had written to him to say that he could not contribute to the restoration of the old church, but would give £50 towards building a new one. We are not without hope that the parish will yet come round to our views. We believe, indeed, despite the decision of the public meeting, that we have a large majority on our side.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY. — On Dec. 5th, at the monthly meeting of the committee, (Mr. Samuel Neville in the chair,) routine business was transacted; and two life-governors were elected — viz., Messrs. C. H. and Alfred A. Potts. The following subscriptions have been added to the building fund:—

Mrs. Carr, Gateshead	£1	0	0
Capt. Weatherley, Newcastle	1	0	0
Jasper Richardson, Esq., Newcastle	1	1	0

NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD CHURCH LEASEHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION.—A meeting was held on Wednesday, Dec. 6, in the Townhall, in this borough, (G. Hawks, Esq., in the chair,) when the accounts were presented by the Secretary, showing that the liabilities yet undischarged of the association amounted to £128 14s. 7d. It appeared by the statement of Mr. Fairs, the collector, that many leaseholders in the district, including some large ones, had refused to pay, or had not paid, their assessments; and the Secretary stated that the only contributions from parties beyond the district had been £10 from the Earl of Durham and £15 from the South Shields Association. The Worcester leaseholders had promised to contribute, but had not yet done so. It was resolved that the deficiency of funds be published, as well as the cause of its existence, in the hope that those who are to blame for it may send send in their contributions. It was stated at the meeting that a few enfranchisements, it was understood, had been arranged with the Dean and Chapter of Durham, but that that body did not seem so ready as the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to facilitate operations under the act of last session, the Commissioners, with respect to property within the diocese of Carlisle, having shown a desire to expedite business far beyond what applicants to the capitular body at Durham had experienced; and that whilst the Durham Chapter required the payment of a sum to cover the expenses of surveys, &c., to be made preliminary to negotiation, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners did not ask for a single farthing. This conduct of the Commissioners elicited much commendation from the meeting; and was considered to be consolatory, too, inasmuch as the episcopal and capitular property in this diocese must, in the course of not very many years, fall under the management of the more active and accommodating body. Thanks were then voted to the Chairman, and the meeting separated.

BURGLARY IN GATESHEAD.

On all sides of us, for some time, there have been burglaries and robberies, which our police authorities (rightly or wrongly) lay at the door of the "ticket-of-leave system."

On December 6, in the absence of Mr. John Lawrence, of the Quayside, Newcastle, shipowner and broker, (who was in Liverpool on business,) Mrs. Lawrence was proceeding to Leith on a visit to her friends, and drove from the family residence in the Crescent, Gateshead, to the Central Railway Station. It was nearly 11 o'clock in the forenoon when she left home; and her maid-servant, Elizabeth Cowan, accompanied her in the cab, it having been arranged that she should visit her friends at Stella during the absence of her mistress. The house was thus left uninhabited. About half-past 10 at night, a dog in the Crescent was observed to bark and whinge, as if uneasy; and nearer midnight, Mr. Ralph Morton, whose house adjoins that of Mr. Lawrence, was disturbed by the barking of a dog, and rose and dressed himself, to make a search. He walked out and scrutinized the houses, but saw nothing further to excite suspicion. He therefore again retired to bed. In the morning, it was found that the yard-door at Mr. Lawrence's, and also the back-door of the house, were open; and information was given to the police. Some one, it then appeared, must have been a couple of hours in the house. It had been thoroughly ransacked. Sideboard, chiffonier, desks, &c., had been neatly and dexterously forced open with a knife. The burglar (or burglars) had carried about with him a small pan—using it, inverted, as a shade to his candle; and in the passage, near the door, lying by the side of a silver cake basket, was a small axe, suggesting a determination on the part of the ruffian to resort to the last extremity, in case of need. He must have been alarmed while engaged in his nefarious business; for he had left, lying about, a large quantity of silver

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plate which he had removed from its several places of deposit.

Mrs. Lawrence, who was brought home by a telegraphic message, missed the following property :—£5 in gold and 10s. in silver; two new florins and a new half-crown; two silver fruit knives, with pearl handles; two silver pickle forks, with pearl handles, (the handles broken off, and left behind); a "regard" ring; an opal, diamond, and ruby ring; a topaz ring; a cairngorm brooch; a cameo brooch; turquoise earrings; gold shirt studs, &c., &c.

The house had been entered by a back-window, the burglar having broken a pane, and then loosed the fastening.

VIOLENT DEATH IN GATESHEAD.

FRIDAY, December 8, in the afternoon, an inquest was held by J. G. Stoker, Esq., at the Dead House in Newcastle, on the body of Michael Rice, of Riddell-street, Gateshead. The deceased, a married man with one child, had formed one of a wedding party on Thursday, (so we are informed,) the bride being his sister; and at midnight he lost his life, in manner indicated by the evidence of the following witnesses:—

George John Shanks, Oakwellgate, Gateshead, baker, deposed that he had seen the body lying in an adjoining room, and knew it to be that of Michael Rice, a labourer at the Felling Chemical Works.

Richard Pickering, of the river police, deposed that, about 20 minutes after 12 o'clock, he was on the Quayside in Newcastle, near Sandgate, and heard shrieks, coming apparently from the other side of the river. There were loud voices, and he distinguished the words—"Go in! go in!" He went over to Gateshead, and got down to the river side. There were several persons there—policemen and others. He was told that a man was in the river. He got a boat and grappling irons, and, with other river policemen, succeeded in finding the body. It was about three or four yards from the water's edge. It was nearly low water at the time, (ebb tide). There were some yards of bare beach between the river and the quaywall of Gateshead. Some stairs led down to the river a little above where the body was found. There was a severe wound on the head, from which blood was flowing. In the pockets of the deceased there were two keys, a half-crown piece, and a tobacco box:—no watch.

William Gray, a young man in the service of Mr. Atchison, Bridge-street, Gateshead, baker, deposed that he was at work at midnight, and heard a man singing in the yard belonging to some tenement property, by the side of the river. A passage and steps led from the street to the yard. About a quarter of an hour afterwards, he heard a noise on the "gallery" as if something had fallen upon it. He looked out, but saw no one, and made fast the door. In a short time he again heard a noise, and there was some one in the water. He found several persons — policemen and others—on the sands; and the body was got out by the river-police. One or two persons had previously waded in, but could not find the body. When the man in the yard was singing he appeared to be alone. Witness believed that he tumbled off the gallery.

Mr. Scott, of the Half Moon public house, Bridge-street, Gateshead, stated that the deceased and four or five others left his house on Thursday night, about 11 o'clock. He could not say whether he had a watch upon him. They were not drunk, but noisy.

The inquest was adjourned to Thursday next, at 2 o'clock.

The attention of the Gateshead police was first attracted to the spot by the cries of persons on Tyne Bridge, who had become aware of the circumstance of a man being in the water. Assuming the occurrence to have been accidental, the deceased, after falling upon the beach, must have got up, and scrambled into the Tyne.

The yard in which the deceased was singing terminates at the quaywall, and is unfenced from the river. The "gallery" is a sort of "shelf," overhanging the river, and is affixed to the waterside front of Mr. Atchison's premises. It serves a double purpose. It is the platform of a privy (if so private a name can be applied to so conspicuous a structure); and by stepping on to the platform from the yard, access is gained to the bakehouse. It is a narrow, rickety "gallery," without the slightest fence, and highly perilous.

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